



We seek to grow deeper in our Christian faith,
to care for each other, serve the community
and to share the good news of Jesus
locally and beyond

28th February 2016

Dear Friend of St Swithun's,

As Jane retired last month and we are awaiting a new incumbent, I am writing in my role as Stewardship Secretary. Around this time each year all the church family are reminded of the costs facing us in the year ahead and the need for us to raise the funds to pay them - which is the reason for this letter.

However, whilst I am responsible for administering the stewardship aspect of giving, the strength of our church is in the commitment of all the church family to caring and giving in so many ways: within the church building and its grounds, in families and groups and through all the actions helping the community to thrive in Bathford and beyond. On behalf of the PCC I thank you for your continued selfless giving of time, energy and love. It is through actions such as these that we show our faith and commitment to the teachings of Jesus.

The accounts for 2015 show that, despite the initiatives with the Youth Club and the cost of an extra part-time salary, the total income exceeded the operational and capital expenditure leaving a net surplus for the period. This surplus was largely a consequence of non-recurring grants in excess of £8,000 which we cannot expect to receive this year. The draft budget for 2016 indicates that there will be a shortfall in income over expenditure unless we are able to increase the income through stewardship and other donations.

On behalf of the PCC, I ask you to review your giving to the ministry of St Swithun's through stewardship. If you are able increase it to help meet the costs we expect in the coming year, we would be very grateful.

If you are new to the church, I encourage you to consider starting to give regularly.

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I have included a Stewardship Response Form which I would like you to complete and return to me in the envelope provided by Thursday 31st March - either directly or via the box in the church. Your response will remain confidential and will be seen only by the Stewardship Secretary. Please could you complete and return this form even if your details have not changed from last year as it will renew the declaration which allows Gift Aid to be claimed on the donations.

More information about church finances and copies of the annual report can be obtained from Denis Cowood, Treasurer to the PCC.

Again, thank you for all you have given. It is genuinely bearing fruit. Thank you in anticipation, for considering your ongoing giving to the Lord's work here at St Swithun's.

With best regards



Peter Staples

Stewardship Secretary