

St John the Baptist, Timberhill with St Julian, Norwich

Faith in the Future

Our Christian Stewardship, our Church Family, and you



Let us pray.

Father, through Jesus Christ
you have made us members of your family
and given us a share
in your mission of love to the world.
Look on us with your goodness
in our Christian Stewardship Campaign.
By the Holy Spirit's power,
open our hearts and our hands
to give of ourselves gladly and generously
because of your love,
and so advance your kingdom among us;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We need each other

Dear friends,

Thank you for taking the time to read this invitation to take part in our Christian Stewardship at St John's and St Julian's. Thank you for all that you give to the living ministry of Christ's Church here – your financial contributions, your use of your time, talents and energy, your daily witness and service in the world, your regularity in worship and prayer. Thank you for encouraging me, and your brothers and sisters, to believe that we can have faith in the future.

That's what we've called this Christian Stewardship Campaign: 'Faith in the Future.' Of course, as Christians we *don't* put our faith in the future in a vague, things-might-get-better kind of way. We have faith in the future because we have already put our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, who is Lord of our future. Our confidence is in him.

Our church exists to proclaim him, to worship him and to bear witness to him. In the power of the Holy Spirit we believe we can do this in the future as confidently and courageously as we have in the past. We have tremendous opportunities at St John's and St Julian's: we are at the heart of Norwich with good transport links, the residential population of our parish (already the largest in the city centre) is growing rapidly, and we share a transformative faith which we believe is relevant and powerful for the world of today and tomorrow.

But we need each other in order to move into the future with confidence and hope, and that's why we're having this Christian Stewardship Campaign in our Church Family this autumn. We're asking each other, seriously and prayerfully, to consider our giving – our giving of financial resources to support the life and work of the Church, and our giving of our time and talents in the service of the Christian community. As things stand, we need real growth in both areas. The following pages set this out. Any member of our PCC will be happy to talk to you more about opportunities for giving, service and involvement. I commend this invitation to your prayers and your action.

Freely we have received: freely let us give!

With my prayers and warmest wishes,

Fr Richard

Why do we value our churches?

- ☞ Both churches open all day, every day, with a welcome for all, in the heart of the city
- ☞ The daily Mass, the heartbeat of our parish life, and times for prayer and spiritual growth
- ☞ St Julian's is a significant place of pilgrimage and hospitality for people from all over the world
- ☞ Glorious music and a rich diet of preaching from many voices
- ☞ Pastoral care and support for each other
- ☞ The richness and beauty of Anglo-Catholic worship
- ☞ A family of people of all ages and backgrounds, including children and young people, families and the elderly
- ☞ Opportunities for friendship, witness and service
- ☞ A longstanding ministry to the LGBT+ community
- ☞ Our many partnerships, including the city churches, the Friends of Julian of Norwich, the Diocese, the Society and many more
- ☞ Teaching of the full Christian faith with confidence

...and much more! What would you add?

'It's a lovely, warm, welcoming congregation. It just encompasses people. I'm always amazed at how diverse the congregation is, but it doesn't matter to anyone: it's just a delight, and everyone is happy to be there.'

A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

How's our money spent?

We take great care in our expenditure and we work hard not to live beyond our means. Here's a snapshot of what we might expect to spend in 2019, based on last year's accounts and the commitments that we know about for this year.

Parish Share	£61,000
Altar expenses (candles, wine, altar breads etc)	£3,400
Office expenses (administration, printing etc)	£2,500
Insurance	£3,000
Heat, light and water	£5,000
Repairs	£1,500
Music	£1,000

Adding this up shows that running our churches will cost around **£78,000** this year – and that's just to keep on doing what we do, without any thought of what *else* we might like to do.

What's the Parish Share?

You'll have noticed the big figure up there! The Parish Share is the contribution which is requested from us towards the work of the Diocese of Norwich – the family of Church of England churches in Norfolk and Waveney of which we are part. All parishes are asked to make a contribution towards the costs of the Diocese. The size of the contribution varies from parish to parish depending, largely, on the ministry they receive.

To keep one full-time priest in a parish (like we have in our own parish) costs about £56,000 a year. The Diocese has some income from other sources (such as land and fees) which it uses to subsidise that cost. The money we contribute to the Diocese through our Parish Share pays for priests to receive a stipend and pension, be housed adequately and receive training and support. It also pays for costs which all our churches share between them: the training of curates, central administration, support for mission and ministry, church schools, work with children, youth and families and so on. **As Catholic Christians, we believe deeply that the Church is bigger than just the congregation in which we worship on Sundays – and the Parish Share expresses that reality.** It's the way in which we make a contribution to the Body of Christ.

Where does our money come from?

Our Church Family, basically! Certainly not the Government, like some people think! No: regular, committed giving from our members is the foundation of everything we do. We would fall apart overnight without it. We are by no stretch of the imagination a wealthy parish. Our reserves are very limited.

Last year, we received **£34,300** in voluntary giving from our worshippers and visitors. That money comes from collections in church (about £6,000), standing orders at the bank (£21,620), our donations boxes in the church wall (about £5,500) and some smaller donations and one-off gifts. **We are truly thankful for everything we receive, and we know it often comes at personal sacrifice.** You'll realise, however, that it falls far short of the costs of running our churches.

We also get some money from reclaiming the tax paid on money given to us through the Gift Aid scheme (about £5,500 last year), so **it's really important that everyone who pays tax and gives money to our Church has signed a Gift Aid form** – it means we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give, at no extra cost to you. We also do some fundraising and receive small amounts in fees for weddings and funerals.

We are deeply fortunate to have help from historic sources to assist with the maintenance and care of our churches. A bequest made to St John's in 1542 (!) still generates an annual income for us to spend on the building and worship (£9,718 last year – which all went simply on routine running costs) and a large donation to St Julian's some years ago is available for us to claim expenses for running costs there (£5,137 last year).

There are also a handful of old charities and trusts, administered by the Parish Priest and Churchwardens, which don't belong to the PCC but which can be used occasionally to contribute to specific expenses, often connected with the building or worship.

We are very blessed to have these funds to call on when needed: many churches have to meet all their running costs simply from their voluntary giving.

For us to continue our journey towards financial and spiritual health, it's vital for us to grow regular, committed, voluntary giving to our Church.

How much should I give?

That's entirely up to you. It will vary from person to person, based on their means, responsibilities and circumstances. A regular gift of, say, £13 a week (which is the national average), might be hugely generous and sacrificial from one person, but somebody else might not even notice it going out of their purse! We are all different and as Christians we should pray about how much we give and see it is part of our discipleship. **It's not the *amount* that's important: it's the sacrifice and the generosity that it represents.**

Jesus explained this to his disciples:

'He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

St Luke 21.1-4

As we think and pray about what to give, there are some basic principles which can help us:

- ☞ Giving should always be **in proportion** to our means.
- ☞ Giving should always be **regular**, which means that the Church can budget and plan.
- ☞ Giving should always be **generous** – a genuine response to God in thanksgiving for his goodness and blessings, not just a 'donation to a good cause'.
- ☞ Giving should always be **joyful** – because when we give we know it will enable our Church to fulfil its God-given tasks of worship, witness, welcome and service.

'The peace of this church and Julian's cell have slowed me down and made me feel calm and earthed. Blessings on you all and on this beautiful, necessary place.'

A COMMENT IN ST JULIAN'S VISITORS' BOOK

I'd like to give regularly to my Church: what should I do?

That's wonderful! Thank you. Every gift makes a difference – and giving is part of our discipleship. It's good for our souls!

My Pledge

Enclosed in this pack you'll find a form headed 'My Pledge'. **Complete this form to tell us what you plan to give regularly** – weekly or monthly – to support our Church. It's not a contract: it just means that you're letting us know about what you expect to be able to give, which helps us plan for the future. Whenever your circumstances change, the amount you give can change too.

Standing Orders

The easiest way to give regularly to the Church is to set up a standing order – that means that each month (or at another regular interval of your choosing) your bank transfers an amount of money to the Church. This is administratively efficient, hassle-free, saves you remembering to bring cash to church with you, and means your giving is regular. It can be changed at any time by you instructing your bank. **We encourage everyone who can do so to give to St John's and St Julian's in this way.** If you'd like to do so, please complete and return the form which is headed 'Standing Order'.

Weekly envelopes

If you'd prefer to give **cash**, we can supply you with a **box of envelopes for each Sunday**, to help you give a regular amount each week. Just tick the box on the form headed 'My Pledge' to let us know you'd like these.

Gift Aid

If you pay tax and you give regularly to our Church, please complete the form headed 'Gift Aid declaration.' This means that the Church can reclaim the tax paid on any money you give us: it adds an extra 25p to every £1 you give.

'It is such a strengthening thing to be able to gather round the altar on a daily basis.'

A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Everyone has a role to play

Christian Stewardship is not just about money! Far from it. It's about the committing of our entire lives to our Lord Jesus Christ. This commitment is revealed through our faithfulness in worship and the Sacraments, our prayer and fasting, our joyful giving of our money and our work for the mission of the Church, our living of a Christian life and our practical goodness towards our neighbours. It's expressed partly in the use of our time, talents and energy for the service of the Christian community.

Being part of any community is about getting involved – and the Church, the community of faith, is no different. Our sharing in the active life of the Church deepens our relationship with God and with other people.

Each of us has unique, God-given talents and gifts. There are many ways in which our Church Family members use these to weave together the rich tapestry of life at St John's and St Julian's – and we want to use this campaign to thank very warmly everyone who contributes so much to the life of the Church.

It's also a good time for all of us to think about the different roles, activities and opportunities for service in our Church, and consider where we might like to get involved. **No part of our life is a 'closed club' and we warmly welcome new involvement and fresh ideas.**

Of course, life can be busy, but the more people we have contributing a little, the lighter the load for each person and the stronger and richer our Church Family life will be.

On the enclosed Time and Talents form you can find a list of suggestions of ways you might like to get involved – have a read and think about you'd like to do or what you could offer! Then complete it and return it.

'A church unafraid to express the whole of its Anglo-Catholic tradition, with clouds of incense, deep reverence and prayer, the sacramental approach to life's mysteries at all levels, and a very welcoming crowd. Thank you.'

A COMMENT ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

What do people say about our churches?

‘I could sit here for hours and reflect. I lit a candle and made an offering and said a prayer. Thank you for sharing.’

A COMMENT IN ST JOHN’S VISITORS’ BOOK

‘Great community! Welcoming to everyone, and open every day.’

A COMMENT ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

‘What a blessed place of peace and tranquillity.’

A COMMENT IN ST JULIAN’S VISITORS’ BOOK

‘A true centre of Catholic theological and liturgical excellence.’

A COMMENT ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

‘Lovely welcome by the congregation. Beautiful service, definitely coming again.’

A COMMENT IN ST JOHN’S VISITORS’ BOOK

Get in touch

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Churchwardens • Simon Owers and Shirley Buxton

Treasurer • Chris Bushnell

www.stjohnstimberhill.org

Faith in the Future

Our Christian Stewardship Campaign

Sunday 29 September • Feast of St Michael & All Angels

11am High Mass in the Presence of a Bishop
with the Launch of our Stewardship Campaign
followed by lunch for the whole Church Family

Preacher: The Rt Revd David Gillett, formerly Bishop of Bolton

Friday 4 to Sunday 6 October

Parish Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Sunday 13 October

11am High Mass
with Stewardship Sermon preached by Fr Richard

Sunday 20 October

11am Pontifical High Mass with Confirmation

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rt Revd the Bishop of Richborough

Sunday 27 October • Feast of the Dedication of the Church

11am Procession and High Mass
with presentation of responses
and Thanksgiving for the Campaign

*Preacher: The Revd Canon Jeremy Haselock,
Chaplain to Her Majesty The Queen and formerly Precentor of Norwich*

**Please return your response cards
on (or before) Sunday 27 October,
the Feast of our Dedication,
when they will be presented at the altar.
Thank you – and God bless you!**

