

## The choice is ours...

Our individual circumstances differ. Some of us work, others live on a pension. Levels of earning and pension are widely different. Additional responsibilities such as children at university or caring for an elderly relative affect our financial circumstances. Some of us are 'asset rich' but 'cash poor'. No one can tell us how much we should give. There are questions and examples to help us to decide where giving lies in our priorities, but the choice is ours. The boxes we tick below might give some guidance on what we should do.

### I last worked out my regular giving to the church...

- Within the last twelve months
- Two or three years ago
- Never

### I give regularly through a planned giving scheme by...

- Standing Order
- Envelope
- Other means
- I do not give regularly

### I have signed a declaration and give through the Gift Aid Scheme...

- Yes
- No

We all decide on the amount to give to the church in different ways. Some give 10% of their disposable income. The Church of England recommends giving 5% to the church. Some give 5% to the church and 5% to other charities.

In making a decision to plan our giving on a regular basis, we are making a decision on priorities and life-style. If we spend £5 to £10 on petrol a week or on weekly newspapers, what do we think our church and God's work is worth?



# The Parish of Holy Trinity Bradford on Avon

## Our Plans and Needs 2017



"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly".  
(John 10.10)

## Facts and Figures

- We receive income from several sources, but we do rely on the planned giving of our regular congregation and others to ensure that we are able to meet both our day to day running costs, and build up our reserves again for major items of capital expenditure: so, with Gift Aid, planned giving makes up 80% of our income.
- By far the biggest element of our budget is shared with all the 460 parishes in our Diocese, and that is our contribution to the cost of ministry and mission agreed by the Diocesan Synod in June each year. This goes towards paying for parish ministry (clergy pay, pensions and housing, the training of clergy and lay ministers, and diocesan central resources for parishes) and our support to the national church. In 2017, the figure for Holy Trinity is £61,289, which amounts to a cost of £28 per month for each one of our church members (before paying any of the other bills!).
- At the last count in 2015, 184 people make up our church community and support Holy Trinity on a regular basis through attendance at services, involvement in church life and through financial support: so a vibrant parish community.
- Of these, the majority of households or individuals have made a commitment to regular financial support for our church through our **Planned Giving Scheme** which is really helpful.
- Most now give by **monthly Standing Order** and some by **weekly or monthly Envelope**, ensuring a regular income to meet our outgoings.
- And within the **Planned Giving Scheme**, many are able to give through **Gift Aid**, enabling us to reclaim income tax of £2.50 for every £10 given to the church. This is a really important source of income, making up about 14% of the total.

**In an uncertain climate, planning your giving on a regular basis helps us to decide where our priorities lie and our Church Council to plan with confidence.**

## Our revenue budget for 2017

The approximate **monthly** cost of running our church in 2017 is:

| Income  | £000        | Expenditure   | £000        |
|---|-------------|---|-------------|
| <i>Mainly....</i>   |             | <i>Mainly....</i>   |             |
| Church Collections, Planned giving & Fundraising  | 5.6         | Parish Share  | 5.11        |
| Gift aid tax refund   | 1.06        | General running costs: music, cleaning, wine/candles etc, gardening & maintenance | 1.51        |
| Fees (wedding & funerals), lettings & benefice admin contributions<br><i>(this should be greatly increased in 2018)</i> | 0.69        | Admin   | 1.33        |
| Shortfall<br><i>(but we are working on reducing this deficit!)</i>  | 1.69        | Insurance   | 0.46        |
|   |             | Lighting & heating  | 0.63        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>9.04</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>9.04</b> |

By *increasing* our giving in 2017 we hope to make a real impact with the unfolding of the vision of our 'new' church with its 'Open Doors' – whilst living within our means year by year. So we can...

- ✓ continue to provide a ministry to the whole parish – wonderful worship in church and school; baptisms, weddings and funerals; a high standard of pastoral care to the ill, lonely and bereaved; fun fellowship and social occasions
- ✓ develop and strengthen our new strands of a venue for both community service (eg the new Trinity Café) and for the arts
- ✓ ensure that we can play our full part within the community and in the mission of the church both at home and abroad
- ✓ strengthen our ministry with children and young families and start a much-needed monthly 'Messy Church'
- ✓ develop the arts and educational opportunities afforded by our newly restored Willis organ