

*'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms'
(1 Peter 4:10)*

ST EDMUND'S PARISH GODALMING



OUR CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

Week 1 of 3



All we have and all we are come from God

Our gifts include many things – the gift of life itself, our faith, family and friends; our skills and possessions; and our parish. Our aim over the next three weeks is to examine these gifts and reflect prayerfully on how we live out our stewardship of all our gifts and especially of our parish.

We are God's Good Stewards

- We receive our gifts gratefully and give thanks for them
- We care for them and use them responsibly and accountably
- We share them with others
- We make an offering back to our gracious and generous God.

Time, Talent, Treasure and Testimony

Each one of us is entrusted with a unique portion of Time, Talent and Treasure. God calls us to use and share these blessings with others, building up treasure for ourselves in heaven and giving witness to those around us.

How do I share these gifts with my parish?

Time – Pray and Engage

Talent – Volunteer my skills

Treasure – Donate generously

Testimony – Give witness to those around me

Our parish Mission

Every parish begins with the command of Jesus to make present his saving love, especially through the Mass and the Sacraments.

The mission (later parish) of St Edmund's Godalming, was established in 1904. For over 120 years it has been a constant sign of God's love for us and of his presence among his people. We are grateful to those who established it and whose work and generosity have made it a place in which, in our day, we can find the Lord and his love for us.

Our Stewardship

We are all Stewards of creation, and of the Time, Talent and Treasure entrusted to us, and of the parish as our community of faith.

As the Stewards of our parish today we are responsible for the upkeep of our church, so that we can pass it on to future generations in at least as good condition as we received it, that they too may find there the food and support for their journey through life that the Lord Jesus offers to them.

Like any household, our parish must:

- Cover daily running costs
- Keep its home in good order, maintaining its usability and value
- Make provision for future needs and any emergencies

Our parish additionally supports many programmes, activities and community projects such as youth work, Kasanka, Les Amis, CAFOD, Live Simply, and much else.

How is our parish financed?

Our parish receives no funding from the Vatican, the Diocese or the Government, and is fully responsible for independently funding all its activities and property in order to survive and to maintain and grow the Mission.

Our parish income is derived exclusively from parishioner donations and offertory collections. Despite much generosity and careful financial management our parish runs at a deficit, and we cannot sustain this indefinitely, nor risk having to restrict our future hopes and plans.

*'Each one should give as much as he has decided on his own initiative,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver'*

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In many ways a time of financial hardship for many is not a good time to talk about parish finance and its needs. However, the present difficulties make it all the more important to reflect carefully on our stewardship, recognising that we have each been entrusted with Time, Talents and Treasure to use in our part of God's plan for his children.

Over the next weeks I invite us to prayerfully reflect on the following:

- Do I appreciate my vocation and role as a Steward?
- Do I use my Time, Talent and Treasure to share in God's work?
- Do I use them to benefit the common good and my parish community?
- Does my financial contribution to the parish take account of my means and its needs?
- Do I give regularly, using a Standing Order or some other means?
- Do I give efficiently, using Gift Aid if I pay UK tax, so that my parish gets the most from my contributions?

With my best wishes and prayers,
Fr Jonathan

After Mass there will be friendly faces who can chat with you and answer any questions you may have.

Please feel free to speak to **Fr Jonathan** or contact him by phone or email; the details are below.

You can also contact Eileen Hudson our parish **Gift Aid Co-ordinator** by email:
ga.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

Our website has information about donations: <https://stedsgod.com/donate>

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ST EDMUND'S PARISH GODALMING



OUR PARISH – OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Week 2 of 3



Last week we explored Stewardship and our gifts of **Time, Talent, Treasure** and **Testimony**. This week we explore our parish's finances.

The future of our Parish

There are many areas of parish life we would like to maintain and develop – especially engaging our young people and families, supporting our elderly and those experiencing challenges such as mental health, and making our liturgy and buildings occasions and places that welcome and inspire faith. These are only possible with generous financial support. Like everyone else, especially in financially challenging times, we will need to work within our means. Even though we are still discerning which church to use as the centre for our mission, it remains our responsibility to make good use of what we have received and hand it on to the next generation.

Our parish receives no income from outside sources. Thanks to your generous support over many years we have lived out our Mission. However, even before COVID we had an underlying deficit of some £10k a year without addressing underlying maintenance issues. The change in patterns of participation during COVID has reduced our offertory to £67k from its peak of £84k in 2018, but our plans and needs remain. Some of our donors have also gone to the Lord and we are now looking to set our finances on a surer footing.

The table below shows our income in 2021 and what we think we are likely to need to meet our vision, and we would like to see if we can close the gap.

Money coming in 2021 (£k)		What our vision would cost in 2023 (£k)	
Offertory	67	Clergy costs	14
Gift Aid received	13	Parish administration & staff	21
Donations	6	Youth work	15
Legacies	1	Utilities, Rates, Servicing	24
Rents	3.3	Liturgy & pastoral	6
Other	0.5	Ongoing property repairs and renewals	15
		Contribution to the Diocese for shared mission costs and central support services (including clergy and education)	24
Total coming in	90.8	Total needed	119

Bishop Richard encourages us to consider our regular offering

Many Christians have traditionally given 10% of their income to the church. You may like to prayerfully consider:



- Offering your first hour's pay to God each week
- Volunteering for 5 hours a month in the parish and donating 5% of your income
- Donating the cost of a weekly Starbucks coffee – which annually adds up to £197
- Donating the cost of a weekly takeaway pizza – which annually adds up to £688.

Whatever you decide to give is personal and meaningful to you and the amount of Time, Talent or Treasure should suit your circumstances. The important thing is for us to be united not in the amount we give but in the commitment we make to and for our parish.

A Standing Order is one of the best ways to support our parish!

Standing Orders provide regular fixed payments to our parish, which creates a steady and secure income. It can be easily Gift Aided, and means you don't have to remember to bring your cash/debit card to Mass. Next week's leaflet will include Standing Order form and advice on how to set up a Standing Order for those who would like to do so.

Gift Aid helps our parish to thrive!

Gift Aid is easy to set up and there's no extra cost to you. If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider signing up to Gift Aid – the parish can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, you can claim back a similar amount for yourself through your tax return. In 2021 Gift Aid increased our offertory by £13k, simply from declarations and a bit of administration.

If we received a few donations for particular projects, managed to recover our offertory to £84k and claim Gift Aid on 95% of it, we would go a long way to closing our funding gap.

One-off Gifts, Legacies and Endowments

These options can be tax effective for some parishioners and are always welcome! Please contact us if you would like to discuss these further.

A number of parishes in the diocese have benefitted from generous legacies. If we can build such an investment fund, its revenue will ease the burden of maintenance for our grandchildren and great grandchildren.

All ways of giving, and all donations, are valued and appreciated, and whichever way you decide to help support the parish, we are extremely grateful and thank you for your generosity.

Next week you will be able to affirm your giving

- Sign up to **share your Time and Talent** with our parish
- **Review** and **renew** the amount you currently give
- Arrange **regular giving** by Standing Order
- Sign up to **Gift Aid** if you pay UK tax

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(2 Corinthians 9:7)

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ST EDMUND'S PARISH GODALMING



MY PARISH COMMITMENT

Week 3 of 3



My Parish Commitment

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

By providing your contact details here you consent to being contacted by these means for parish purposes, including stewardship and raising funds for the parish.

After prayerful reflection (please tick and delete as appropriate*):

- ☐ I confirm my regular giving [and intend to give £_____ each week/month]*
- ☐ I would like to set up / change* a standing order (see next page)
- ☐ I would like to Gift Aid my donations to the parish (see below)
- ☐ I would like to make a one-off donation
- ☐ I would like to offer my Time and Talents to and for the parish (see leaflet)
- ☐ Please send information about how to leave a gift in my Will

Gift Aid Declaration I wish to Gift Aid the donations I will make in the future or have made in the last 4 years to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in the relevant tax year it is my responsibility to pay the difference. I confirm I have read and understood the notes below.

Signed:

Date:

Office use: Parish Code: GL

Protecting your privacy This parish is part of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton (Registered Charity No.252878) and a record of your personal information and donations will be held by the Diocese and stored securely on the Diocese's Gift Aid database. We comply with GDPR and the Fundraising Regulators Code of Practice. We do not transfer your data to third parties to use for their own marketing or fundraising purposes. We (your parish office and the Diocese) will use your details to administer your gifts. This may include sharing your information with external organisations working on our behalf such as IT support companies, or when required by law (e.g. to claim Gift Aid). You can read our full Privacy Notice at <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk> The notice also contains details on how to opt-out of further communications from the Diocese if you want to update your preferences.

Standing Order Instruction

Please complete this form, seal it in the envelope marked Gift Aid Organiser and return it via the offertory or the Parish Office.

I am setting up a new standing order / changing my existing standing order*

To (Name of Bank)	
Bank Address	
Account Holder(s)	
Address	
Postcode	
Sort Code	
Account Number	

Please pay the sum of £ monthly / quarterly / annually*

Commencing on __ / __ / __ and thereafter until further notice

Signed:

Date:

To: HSBC Bank plc, 69 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EY	
Account:	RCD AB Godalming
Sort Code:	40 05 20
Account Number:	41077481

(Gift Aid Organiser to complete the following before submission to the bank):

Please quote Gift Aid Declaration Number:

NOTE TO THE BANK: This Standing Order is to replace any existing Standing Order to the above bank account. Please print DONOR'S SURNAME AND INITIAL on the bank statement.

The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878

Without you, our parish would not exist – Thank you!

To all our parishioners for answering God's call to share in the celebration of the Mass and the liturgy and for your participation in the spiritual life of our parish

To all who witness to their faith and help build up our community of faith, hope and love

To our couples and families for bearing witness to God's love through the sacrament of matrimony and cooperating with God in raising children

To all who volunteer their time and talent to complete all the important jobs that are integral to the life of our parish

To our regular givers for ensuring we maintain and grow our parish Mission so that we can pass on our faith to the next generation

To all who have made donations recently or in the past, however small or large. All are welcome and all are appreciated.

'Generosity enlarges the heart' – Pope Francis

After Mass there will be friendly faces who can chat with you and answer any questions you may have.

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SHARING MY TIME AND TALENT

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*'There are many different gifts, but it is always the same Spirit;
there are many different ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord.
There are many different forms of activity, but in everybody it is the same God
who is at work in them all' (I Corinthians 12, 4:6)*

Name

Email

Telephone

As a faithful Steward of God's gifts, I would like to share my Time and Talent by helping with, or taking a leading role in, one or more of the following: *[Please tick boxes below, and write 'lead' if appropriate]*

Liturgy – the Parish's worship

- ☐ Welcomer
- ☐ Choir
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Altar Server (adults & children)
- ☐ Reader
- ☐ Children's Liturgy
- ☐ Communion Minister
- ☐ Screen operator / programmer
- ☐ Coffee after Sunday Mass

Handing on our Faith

- ☐ Baptism Preparation
- ☐ Bumps & Babies
- ☐ First Holy Communion
- ☐ Confirmation
- ☐ Youth Ministry
- ☐ Alpha
- ☐ RCIA (preparing adults for sacraments)
- ☐ Marriage Preparation
- ☐ Adult Formation & small groups

Caring for others

- ☐ Live Simply – justice, peace and sustainability group
- ☐ SVP – visiting the elderly/sick/housebound
- ☐ Afternoon Tea with the SVP
- ☐ Bereavement ministry
- ☐ Welcoming new parishioners
- ☐ Prison ministry

Other Parish Ministries

- ☐ Prayer group/Rosary group/Mothers' prayers
- ☐ Parish Pastoral Team
- ☐ Parish Finance Committee
- ☐ Church care – sacristy / cleaning / flowers
- ☐ Counters for offertory collections
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Organising and supporting Social Events / Hospitality
- ☐ Churches Together in Godalming – parish representative
- ☐ Admin support (e.g., website)
- ☐ Safeguarding team
- ☐ School – Parish contact

Other talents which I can share are:

Please use this box to let us know if you feel called to a leadership role in any area

Our parish volunteers are really important to us, and we recognise that people are busy and time is tight. We appreciate all offers of help and can be flexible in our response and offer any support or training which may be needed. So please don't hesitate to get involved!

We will get back to you in response to your offer of help as a parish volunteer in the next few weeks.

Thank you for your generosity of heart