

## **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](mailto:ga.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk)

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

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*'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**

