

## **The practical response**

### ***Giving***

To continue to grow and develop as a church we need each attending member or family to contribute about £10/week. Some are able (and do) give substantially more; for others such a gift may be a sacrifice beyond their means or ability. Every gift is received with gratitude and thankfulness, and as Jesus taught, the value of each gift is not measured in £'s, but in the love and sacrifice in the heart of the giver.

To make a gift please use the enclosed Pledge Form which allows you to choose both the amount, and the means of payment, that will best reflect what you believe God is calling you to do.

We would also ask you to consider including a bequest to St Michaels as part of your will. Such gifts enable us to undertake special projects and expand our horizons.

### ***Where the money goes***

Giving to the church enables the whole church to be the visible “body of Christ” in society.

As a parish we aim to model the ideals we aspire to, so we ensure that we freely, cheerfully and wholeheartedly give the first 10% of all that we receive from “planned giving” to charity. We support ten charities meeting a range of needs internationally, nationally and locally. Details are displayed in the church.

A little over 50% of our total income is paid to the diocese to provide clergy, training, and the infrastructure that ensures the church remains prominent in our national society.

The remainder pays for the ongoing operations of St Michaels, our work in the local community, and the upkeep of our buildings and churchyard.

### ***For more information***

To find out more about giving in St Michael's please contact our Stewardship Officer, David Percival (via the Parish Office), who will be pleased to discuss any aspect in complete confidence.

**Knowing: .....**

**Growing: .....**

**Showing: .....**

**..... and Giving**

**in St Michaels**

## Knowing

Our God is awesome! So powerful he has created and ordered the entire universe; and yet so gentle he cares when even a sparrow falls to the ground.

So majestic that he orders the nations and the peoples of earth; and yet so humble that he walks at our side as we face the darkest challenges life can bring.

So pure and holy that he abhors sin; and yet so loving that he sent his Son to die in our place so we could enjoy an eternal relationship with him.

As we get to know God better our hearts will respond with joy and excitement – we may want to praise and worship, or we may want to fall on our knees in repentance and gratitude.

And we will want to give - not just for what he has given us, but for who He is!

## Growing

Our awareness of God may begin with some great revelation, or it may be just with a quiet question “What if there is a God??” Wherever we start, over time, as we explore the bible and ask God in prayer, the Holy Spirit will help our faith to grow.

As we grow in faith and understanding we become ever more aware of God’s provision for us: an environment where plants and animals flourish and feed us; our skills and talents so that we can work productively; our families and communities where we build relationships and nurture the next generation – every area of our lives provided for by God.

Of course we may also become aware of just how much we have by comparison to others: aware of the poverty, destitution, hopelessness and struggle of life for so many on the planet.

As our faith and understanding grow we will see that there are ways we can respond with love and compassion for others, and give from what God has provided to us.

## Showing

Our hearts may be filled with worship for God, and our heads may be clearly aware both of what God has given each of us and the deep needs of others who have less, but until we take action our worship and faith remain dead. Our personal giving is a step of putting faith into action – it brings our faith to life.

Our giving to the church not only keeps church going, but enables it to reach out to others to show God’s love in action and in words.

And as our faith grows, our attitude to giving will change and develop.

Perhaps we start just putting any spare change in our pockets in the plate when it’s passed round....

Then we progress to offering more regularly using the blue gift aid envelopes....

And next we get serious about giving regularly by Standing Order from our bank – bringing God the first fruits of our labours.....

And finally we put our faith fully into action regularly reviewing our priorities in stewardship of our resources, both through life, and in the legacy we leave for the future.

*Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Riches and honour come from you, and you rule over all....*

*For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. (1 Chronicles 29 v 11, 12 & 14b)*