

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 2017 – All Saints Day

- Divide into boys and girls
- 10 questions – what are the correct answers – adults can join in too.
- What do these things cost:
  - A basic cup of coffee at Starbucks £2.70.....
  - A portion of fish and chips at the Raynes Park F + C shop £6.50.....
  - A teenage off peak ticket for the Odeon Wimbledon £8.00.....
  - A McDonald Cheeseburger £2.69.....
  - An adult haircut at Raynes Barber £15.....
  - A copy of the Daily Telegraph £1.60.....
  - A baptism service in church £0.....
  - A family ticket to visit Westminster Abbey 2 ad and 2 chil £45.....
  - An adult ticket to the London Eye on the day £26.....
  - The cost of attending a service at Christ Church £0.....

**Nothing to attend Church.** But surely it costs money to run Christ Church? How much does it cost to run everything in the Church for one week? £2,700

Where does it come from? Basically from the generosity of us, the members of Christ Church. Which reminds me of a wonderful joke I was told recently by one of our PCC members – it came from Frank Skinner. A priest stood up and said to his congregation “Now about our fundraising campaign. There is good news and there is bad news. The good news is that we have successfully reached our target. The bad news is that all the money is still in your bank accounts”.

But we do have a deficit – in other words, not enough money coming in each week – **about £2,400 income: £300 deficit pw = £16,000 pa** What can we do?

Well, what we are asking everyone to do is to review what we give to the church. Obviously if we were a golf club or similar organisation, we would just raise the annual subscription to cover the deficit. All sorted. But the Church has never worked like that. It has always been left to each individual to consider carefully and prayerfully what they earn, what money they have, and to decide for themselves what they can put in the offertory collection. Some of you may not be able to give any more – thank you for at least thinking about it. Some of you may have to reduce your giving. Thank you for what you can give. Others of you may decide that you can give a little more – so thank you too.

There are of course a number of ways of helping with the practicalities. So if you would like to have a set of free weekly envelopes, you can put your collection into

the envelope each week and even if you aren't in church, you can bring your envelopes – as many as you like – when you are next in Church.

Then again many people let their bank do all the work and set up a standing order. But that can mean that when the bag comes round it looks as though you are not giving anything to the church as you just pass it on. Well we have come up with a solution which you may like to use. We have created these cards. So when you arrive in church, collect one from the basket where the books are given out and simply place the card in the bag when it comes round – as it says “This is a token of my offering to God”. Finally, of course, if you are a taxpayer we, as a charity, can claim back from HMRC the tax you have paid – so for every £1 you give, the church gains an additional 25p.

There are fuller details in an envelope addressed to you – please can you make sure you collect your envelope before you leave. If there isn't one for you, it may mean that you are not currently on our membership list – so take a blank envelope and write your name and address on the sheet beside it so we can keep an accurate record of everyone who is part of the Christ Church family.

One important final thing. The cost of running Christ Church is high – but these costs would go through the roof if we had to pay everyone who works to contribute to the life of the church – the list is too huge – but think about the time you freely give to teach in Junior Church, serve on the Church Council take an active part in our worship, serve refreshments, arrange the flowers, organise social events, lead small groups, are involved in pastoral care and so on and so on. We depend for our very life on the time and talents which you freely offer back to God for the building up of the body of Christ in this parish. Thank you for all you do. If you don't feel your gifts and talents are being recognised or used, do let us know.

It all comes down to the basic truth that life is for living. We know we have all been given gifts of time, money and talents by God and we must use them fully for him and for his Church.