

How to Respond

Please complete the relevant parts of the enclosed Response Form and bring it with you to a service on Dedication Sunday, 27 November. Please complete the form even if you are not changing your support for St. Mary's, so that we are all responding as a church family.

Before completing the financial section of the Response Form it may be helpful to consider the following:

If you currently:	then please pray about whether you could.....
Are not making a regular financial contribution	Give to St Mary's on a regular basis
Give a regular amount by envelope	Give by standing order instead
Give regularly and are a tax payer	Allow the church to claim a further 25% through Gift Aid on your giving or by joining the Parish Giving Scheme
Pay regular amounts through standing order or the Parish Giving Scheme	Increase the amount you are currently giving
Are unable to do any of these	Consider leaving St Mary's a legacy in your will.

For further information on any of the above please contact:

Tim Jackson or Rev'd Julie Sear
Stewardship Secretary
telephone 01342 850902 01892 770436
email timjackson317@hotmail.com revjuliesear1@gmail.com

Thank you for considering prayerfully this pamphlet and your contribution to St Mary's.

St Mary the Virgin The Parish Church of Hartfield

Supporting the Church Family



Stewardship Sunday – 6 November 2016
Dedication & Thanksgiving Sunday - 27 November 2016

“Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.” 1 Chron. 29: 11-14

Dear Friends,

As I look back over this past year, I do so with a sense of gratitude to God for all the resources He has given us at St Mary's. In our bible study series '40 Days with Jesus', we looked at Post Easter encounters with the risen Lord Jesus. The transformation of lives given in love and service to Him. Our Stewardship theme this year is to give thanks to God for His greatness, power and faithfulness as we acknowledge that everything in heaven and earth belongs to him and we are stewards of those gifts.

Stewardship is not primarily about money- it is about our response to God's grace and an expression of thankfulness in action. What does that mean for each of us as individuals as we re-commit ourselves to God's service for another year? You will see on the next page some of the ways in which we have seen God at work among us during 2016.

Please take a moment to rejoice in what God has been doing and prayerfully consider your response.

I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the life and mission of St Mary's and for the ways we share the good news of Christ with our local community.

The challenge for 2017 is great and exciting and we serve a great God. Please join with me in re-dedicating yourself to serve Him faithfully throughout the coming year.

Rev'd Julie Sear

2016 Highlights

Major growth in ministry to young people

- Teddy Tots (Baby and Toddler Groups)
- Sunday Discoverers (Children's Church) growing in numbers
- Monthly Sunday Big Breakfast launched for age 9+
- HYPE, youth club (Years 7 & 8), successfully completed first year
- PULSE, youth club (Years 9-11) launched
- Messy Mondays launched during school holidays
- After school club (Years 1-6)
- Children's and Families' Worker commenced part-time ministry in the parish in April
- Youth worker joined us for a day a week in September

Development of Discipleship

- Growth in congregations at all main services
- Monthly "Open the Book" drama group performs for school
- 40+ people attended Lent Course and bible study groups
- Alpha Course launched in September
- Monthly prayer Breakfast
- Churchyard care working group started
- Part-time Curate joined us at the end of June

Pastoral Care

- Pastoral care team established
- New support programme for those in need alongside established caring organisations
- Visit to church families with children
- Monthly "Open House" at The Rectory

Outlook for 2017

We pray that 2017 will see further growth in these initiatives. Hopefully we can support them through prayer and giving generously of time, talents and resources so that these precious fruits of growth can be tended rather than wither on the vine.

We also hope to launch a major, targeted campaign, which will involve the wider community, so that we can carry out the proposed, badly needed, up-dating of the church building so that it is much better suited to support the growing demands we are making on it. This will be a major faith building exercise and is intended to be complimentary to, rather than competitive with, our efforts to increase regular giving to support the day-to-day activities of St Mary's.

The Financial Situation

For 2016, we are currently predicting a deficit of just over £3,000 with regard to our day-to-day income and expenditure, which excludes major projects such as the up-dating of the church building and one-off donations. This deficit is not greater only because of a diocesan grant towards the cost of the Children's & Families' Worker.

The preliminary expenditure budget for 2017 has been prepared and the following summarises the possible situation:

	2016	2017	Change
Parish mission costs	£44,500	£55,000	+24%
Rector & diocesan costs	£36,000	£37,000	+3%
Mission further afield	£2,000	£2,000	No change
TOTAL	£82,500	£94,000	+14%

The increase is primarily due to the full year impact of the Children's & Families' worker, parish ministry costs and provision for repairs. To balance our day-to-day income and expenditure our regular giving needs to increase by about 13% or £10,500. This is a substantial increase. Not every established contributor will be able to increase their giving. Hopefully some established contributors will be able to do so. In particular, we pray that our increase in numbers will be reflected in an increased in regular contributors.

Let each of us settle before God what is right for us to do, and let us pray and entrust to God's safe keeping the overall financial needs of St Mary's.