# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

#### WE WORSHIP A GOD WHO GIVES!

From our bodies to our buddies, our families to our food, our talents to our treasure, everything we have comes from Him. He even gave His one and only Son!

Therefore, we know that everything we have is only ours on loan. We're merely stewards! And as such, we're called to let time, talent and treasure flow through us to other people, according to God's call and others' needs.

You may be surprised to learn that, as a church, we receive no financial support from the central Church of England. Indeed, we give to them! So, any money we have comes solely from our members or rental income from the building.

So, we are hugely grateful to all of you who give to St. Peter's! It's your giving alone that enables our gospel ministry to grow and all our running costs to be met. Without your support, nothing would happen in our church. The building, worship, church staff, sound system, outreach, heating, even your post-service cuppa tea – all of it is only possible thanks to your generosity!

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### WHY SHOULD WE GIVE?

#### IT'S GOOD FOR US

Generosity is good for the soul! Giving breaks the power that money can often hold over our lives. It's also a healthy spiritual discipline and will grow in us the likeness of Christ.

#### IT MAKES US PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER

Sowing into God's work means we become part of building His Kingdom! We'll get excited about what's happening at church and feel more invested in what's going on.

> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also Matthew 6:21

#### IT'S NOT OURS ANYWAY!

Giving reminds us that nothing we have is really ours anyway! It all belongs to God. Knowing that helps us hold on a little less tightly. And remember, you can't take it with you!

#### WE'LL GET IT ALL BACK ...

Jesus tells us that 'it's more blessed to give than to receive'. And God is no-one's debtor! So, one way or another, whether financially, or just through joy or a sense of fulfilment, we'll get back whatever we give, and then some! And we haven't even mentioned Heaven...

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose. **Jim Elliot** 

### HOW SHOULD WE GIVE?

#### JOYFULLY

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

God is the happiest, most cheerful, being in (or outside of) the universe! He's also the One who gives the most. The two are linked. And we cannot out-give God! One way or another, He'll bless us and pay us back. So, let's be joyful as we give!

#### SACRIFICIALLY

In contrast to the Old Testament commandment of a 10% tithe, the New Testament focuses more on our attitude than any amount. The widow's mite shows us that generosity is more about proportion of income given than just the size of our donation! The point is, giving should hurt. Imagine Everest is our giving, where Jesus is at the summit and base camp is 10%. It's great to reach base camp, but we are called to keep on climbing...

#### INTENTIONALLY

It's good to plan. God calls us to give from our 'first fruits' and not from what's left over. Setting up a monthly, quarterly or annual standing order can really help us get into good habits personally as well as help St. Peter's plan more effectively for the future.

#### RESPONSIBLY

If you are a UK taxpayer, St. Peter's can reclaim an extra 25p on every £1 donated. Please complete a gift aid declaration at church or on our website: stpetersnottinghill.org.uk/giving

# LOOKING AHEAD

We can all see how much God has been doing at St. Peter's recently, but there is so much more we'd love to do! If the £121k deficit comes in, our plans are:

- Take on a a full-time associate vicar, to help Pat with services and increase our pastoral care.
- Employ a part-time women's worker who can specialise in ministry to women in our church.
- Employ a part-time social media manager, who can put out high quality content.
- Pay for a production engineer at church each Sunday to ensure the technology is used to its full capacity.

We have other hopes for the future as well:

- Employ a Community Outreach Worker to connect with the lonely, the least and the lost.
- Invest in our building. E.g. by replacing or reupholstering the chairs at some point, allowing people to sit comfortably during the sermons! (We could shorten the sermons, but that's harder...)

All of this costs money! Fundraising may be required. But we believe that if we all give what God is calling us to give, most of these needs would be met. And isn't it exciting to all play a part!

#### SO...

- If you have not started giving to St. Peter's, might you think about doing so?
- If you give by standing order, might you be able to increase your giving?
- If you do not plan your giving, might you consider doing so, or at least a portion of it?

Never think that your donation is too small to make a difference! Remember the widow's mite...

### 2023 FORECAST

#### INCOME PROJECTIONS

Based on income received in 2022, we have forecast the following levels of income during 2023:

| Planned Giving<br>(Monthly/Quarterly/Annually):    | £151,000 |
|--|----------|
| Rental Income<br>(Korean Church/Ad-hoc bookings):  | £67,000  |
| Other Income<br>(Wedding & Funeral Fees/Concerts): | £2,000   |
| TOTAL  | £220,000 |

#### PROJECTED EXPENDITURE FOR 2023

Our total expenditure is forecast to be £341,000.



This leaves a potential deficit of £121,000. However, we are confident that if we each give biblically, this need will be comfortably met. After all, if we assume a core membership of 120 and the London average income of £36,000 a year, our planned giving alone would be £432,000. As a church we commit to this principle by giving away 10% of what we receive.

And if we saw such giving, just imagine what that would enable us to do...

## HOW CAN WE GIVE?

#### BANK TRANSFER

The most helpful way is to give by Bank Transfer – ideally setting up a regular standing order. This means we do not have to pay any fees and St Peter's receive the full value of your donation.

Our bank details are:

St Peters Church Notting Hill Church Account RCN 1133807 Sort code: 60 83 01 Account Number: 20255589



If you are a UK taxpayer, please complete a Gift Aid declaration so we can claim an additional 25% on your donation, at no additional cost to yourself.

#### SUNDAY SERVICE COLLECTIONS

You can give by cash, cheque or credit/debit card at any Sunday service. Please make cheques payable to St Peters Church, Notting Hill.

#### LEGACY

Please speak to the church office if you're interested in leaving a legacy to St. Peter's.

