

## What we need to think towards.

Recently we have lost some of our most faithful, regular givers, as they have moved away or, sadly, died.

In order for our Church to function and serve our Village, we need to increase our current levels of giving by around 17% :

That means if you are currently giving £10 per week you should consider increasing this to £11.70.

Also, how you give can be significant: we are grateful to you if you are already give regularly having planned to give a certain amount each week, month or year. If however you currently give in the collection plate when you attend services, we would love you to consider becoming a regular giver by setting up a standing order. This means we can plan better, and if you miss a service we won't miss your giving. And so it might be that you won't have to give more, but just ensure that your giving is regular. Standing orders are simpler, and cheaper for us to administer than cash or cheques or envelopes, and so we encourage everyone, even if you can't Gift Aid it to us, to make a standing order.

## What to do

Please pray, and listen to God, ask questions of us, and be honest about the importance of St. Thomas' to your faith. Remember that by your giving, you can ensure that the faith you know can be passed on to others you may not now know, as it must have originally been shared with you at the start of your own spiritual journey. Then we can all discover the abundance of every blessing that God gives us within Melbury Abbas and throughout the Parish in which St Thomas belongs.

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NRSV)

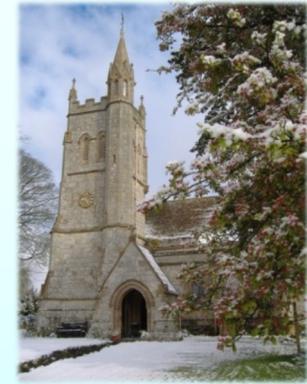
Christian Stewardship is not a fix for an issue, it's not about raising money: here today and gone tomorrow: Christian Stewardship is a journey and an outlook. It is about life, in fact Stewardship is a way of life in which we regard ourselves and our possessions as intrusted from God to be used in His service. This means that we are stewards or managers of everything God has given to us: our time, our abilities, our possessions, our money, our whole lives.

## A Prayer for our church

Lord,  
you have given us so much  
give us just one thing more,  
generous hearts,  
for Jesus' sake.

Amen

“All things come from you  
and of your own we give to you.”



## Stewardship at St Thomas'

# 2017

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## Introduction

Stewardship is at the heart of our mission as a church and is wider than just money. Your financial giving enables us to not only ensure our church is well maintained both now and for future generations, but also resources mission within the church. This includes having our vicar Simon provide a wider mission into our schools and enables a recognisable spiritual presence to those in residential homes and the community. Your giving also enables mission in the wider church through the work of the Diocese, the National church and across the world.

## How much we give

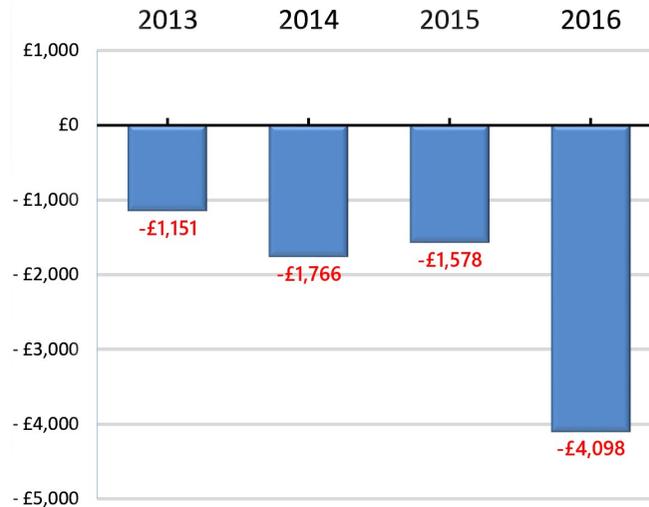
Financial giving is a great indicator of the spiritual health of a church and of each person in the church individually. It is a spiritual issue which is gospel driven rather than a calculated 'tax' on its members.

The amount we individually give to St. Thomas is a decision to be made honestly between each one of us and God. We recognise that many members will be giving both to the church and to other organisations, and the purpose of the stewardship campaign is for you to realistically reconsider your giving and respond accordingly. Your PCC (Parochial Church Council) has put together some guidelines which may help us become a healthy church again.

## Background

It may be that you are unaware of the current financial situation of the church, and this leaflet aims to provide an overview.

## St Thomas Financial Situation

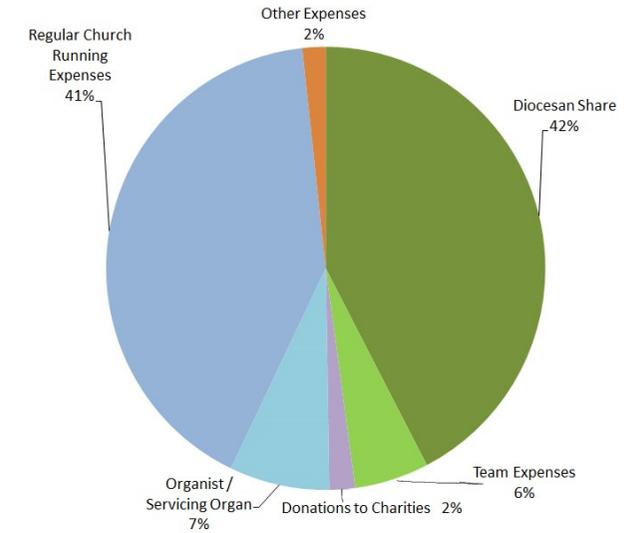


You may be surprised to know that over the past few years St. Thomas has been significantly drawing from reserves to pay for the shortfall between the money we receive and the cost of running the operations of the church. This is not sustainable in the long term and so we must address our giving and bring our finances back to a realistic position.

## Where the money goes.

The PCC is careful with expenditure; from the pie chart you can see that in 2016, around half of the expenditure (48%) went towards Diocesan Share & Team Expenses. This not only enables mission in our church, schools, and our community, but also keeps our vicar in his post. Another 48% goes towards the upkeep and running of our own church building and towards the organ. Leaving only 2% towards giving to other charities and a further 2% towards other expenses.

## Expenditure 2016 : £28,205



## Where the money comes from.

Just under half of our income, 49%, comes from Planned Giving, collections and the reclaimed Gift Aid. 34% comes from St Thomas Preservation Society for the maintenance of the building, and only 6% comes from Parochial Fees such as Weddings and Funerals.

## Income 2016 : £24,107

