

# St Luke's 200: Introducing Generous Giving

## Introduction

The Generous Giving Project starts on St Luke's Day in October as one part of St Luke's bicentennial celebrations. We want to update you on the project and encourage you to get involved as we seek, both individually and collectively, to be transformed into Christ's likeness and be ever more Generous Givers.

We would like to invite you to consider ways in which you give to St Luke's and Christ Church in the furtherance of our collective vision and mission to be love in action in Chelsea and beyond.

Weekly worship, children and young people activities, homelessness and food bank support and pastoral support is only possible with your generous financial support. Our current finances are not sustainable. If left unchanged, our church will have to do significantly less of those activities in the next 2 years.

As such, we invite all of us who attend or are otherwise committed to the church to reflect on our financial giving in advance of October in the following ways:

- **If you do not currently donate to the church**, please consider doing so. You can set up a standing order by scanning the QR code at the end of this article or by contacting the church office.
- **If you regularly give in the plate at church on Sunday**, many thanks. Please consider **setting up a standing order** as it allows the church to plan its finances more easily.
- **If you have a standing order set up**, many thanks. Please consider when you last reviewed the amount your give and **consider if you can increase your financial commitment**.

The principles of planned giving apply just as much to capital as income and we encourage you to consider including the church in Chelsea in your will.

## Background:

The mission and ministry of our parish costs around £890,000 a year or £2,400 a day or £17,000 per Sunday.

In our parish we have a shortfall of about £150,000 per annum, which has been met in large part by the reserves of St Luke's Hall and the Hall of

Remembrance. Those reserves can only fund the next two years of shortfalls. As such, we must either significantly increase our giving or accept that the church will have to do significantly less work in our lives and that of our community.

## The aim of the Generous Giving Project

The Generous Giving project's aim is to help us as individuals and as Christ's body in this parish be ever more generous givers. We can be generous givers in treasure, time and talents. This is rooted in the Christian calling for us all to be transformed into the imitation of Christ who himself was the perfect lived example of generous giving.

Most immediately, the focus of the project is on our giving of our treasure. This is because the pressing financial need to ensure the sustainable future of our church.

Importantly, as part of the focus on treasure is also

ongoing work on the church being a good steward of its finances. This has involved the church office and the church treasurer reviewing the church's budget, reducing its costs where possible and ensuring good reporting practice.

In the coming months we are busying ourselves 1. making it easier to donate; 2. developing a sustainable financial model for the church; 3. promoting Generous Giving; 4. demonstrating the church's genuine gratitude for your generous and sacrificial giving.

**Through the activities in the areas set out above, we hope to ensure:**

1. the church has a sustainable financial future;
  2. we continue to support the mission of the Parish and maintain a presence at the centre of the local community;
  3. more opportunities for participation in the life and work of our churches and parish community;
  4. further development of our faith and spiritual discipline; and
  5. we honour the legacy of those who came before us and act as custodians for those that follow us.
- Please get in touch with the clergy or members of the Generous Giving project working group (Fr Sam Hole, Simon Hills, Tim McLean, Julia Mcnamara and Jonathan Price) if you have any thoughts on the above and/or wish to get involved.

