



September 2022

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

As is traditional in this church September includes Giving Sunday and often the push is for money. Money is always welcomed, but the focus of my talk this year was 'Whole Life Living & Giving' and if you missed the talk you can still hear it on our website. My great concern at the moment is us having the people to staff all the jobs that need doing just for us to worship together on Sunday mornings. We also have midweek ministries that would welcome new members and helpers and I would really love to see new ministries springing up as you offer your gifts and time to be used in new ways.

Following my letter is one from our Treasurer Oliver and then pledge forms for this year and also a time and talents form. I would be really grateful if all these forms could be returned to the office or on a Sunday morning by October 9<sup>th</sup> 2022.

### **Sharing Fund**

As a church we are aware that there are times when we each have different needs and as a family we are called to work together to try and meet them. Sometimes needs are practical and meals, DIY help or a lift to the hospital are required. Sometimes needs are financial and as a church we have a Sharing Fund that we can use to help those within our church family who are in need. If you are struggling financially, especially with the current cost of living crisis and escalating heating costs please do talk to me or one of the churchwardens and we will do our best to help.

### **Church Chairs**

When the church chairs were originally bought several people opted to 'sponsor' one of the chairs and plaques were attached remembering people who had died or special family events, births, anniversaries and baptisms. We now need some additional chairs with arms on and so there is an opportunity for you to sponsor a chair if you didn't get the opportunity the first time or if you want to mark a new occasion. Please do speak to me if you would like more details.

Please visit the Giving ([stwss.org.uk/giving](http://stwss.org.uk/giving)) and Finance pages ([stwss.org.uk/finance](http://stwss.org.uk/finance)) of our website to find out more about why and how we give and what your generosity enables. For Biblical inspiration see 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, Luke 7: 36-50 and Luke 21: 1-4.

Thank you all for taking the time to think through what you currently offer to this church in terms of your time, talents and tithe. Every contribution is important, plays a part in the life of

our church and is truly valued by me. Most of all though it is glorifying to God and part of our worship to Him. Every good and perfect gift we have has come from Him.

Yours in Christ,



Sue Cooke

Vicar, St Thomas with St Stephen

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### **Treasurer's Update**

Dear Church Family,

At the APCM early this year I was able to give thanks for a financial surplus in 2021, due to disciplined management by our PCC and your very generous response to Gift Day 2021. That surplus provided the opportunity to begin a cycle of investment in our fabric and mission for the first time in many years.

At PCC earlier this month I provided another financial update. In summary we are continuing to benefit from reduced running costs compared to previous years, and are maintaining our income thanks to your regular giving and the hard work of the bookings team.

This year we have carried out much-needed improvements to St Thomas' including repairs to the flooring, managing the trees on site and beginning the replacement and renovation of the lights in the Nave. More works are planned through the remainder of 2022.

We have also been able to maintain our Diocesan Quota for 2022, support our mission partners and fund new activities; for example the recently opened Hive space in the café. At the same time we have increased our Sharing Fund for those in our church family who need direct financial support.

We have managed ongoing commitments closely to ensure we remain solvent even as demands on our resources inevitably increase through the winter.

Our intention is to maintain a small surplus over our minimum policy balances. This is to ensure that our resources are put directly to the support of our mission and not 'locked away' as savings. It is encouraging to see the fruit of this faithful commitment: improvements to the worship space, new missional activities and increased support for our church family and local community.

Our ability to invest in our mission, and response to increased needs in our community, will be greatly increased if we have another successful Gift Day this year. We may each consider how we can contribute: through prayer; with a one-off gift; or by increased regular giving.

Thank you for your prayers and for your financial commitment to our mission.

*Oliver Huggins*

*September 2022*

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**Worship Through Generosity & Gratitude, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

I would like to give/continue giving\* to St Thomas with St Stephen

A **regular gift** by **standing order** of ..... per month / year\*

A **regular gift** via the **envelope scheme** of ..... per week / month\*

A **one-off donation** of £ ..... enclosed / to come\*

I have reviewed my financial giving and **cannot increase or begin giving** at this time.\*

\*delete as appropriate

If you have opted to give by the envelope scheme someone will be in touch with you

Please make Cheques payable to 'St Thomas with St Stephen Church PCC'

Please make standing orders to 'St Thomas with St Stephen, Telford Park' Sort Code: 60-40-05, Account No: 41511131, National Westminster Bank plc

The regular amount I give to STwSS has changed

I am a UK taxpayer. Please complete the Gift Aid form overleaf if you haven't already done so for STwSS and you wish us to treat as Gift Aid Donations all qualifying gifts of money made

Title and full name ...

Home address incl. postcode ...

E-mail ...

## Gift Aid Declaration

If you have already completed a Gift Aid form for STwSS there is no need to complete this side of the form.

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made

- Today
- In the past 4 years
- In the future

\*Please tick all boxes that apply

I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

- My name and address are written overleaf

Signature ...

Date ...

### Notes

1. Please notify us if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.
2. This form is for a single individual. Couples who both wish to give should each complete their own form.
3. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self-Assessment tax return. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for this, ask the PCC Treasurer, or visit <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/individuals/giving/gift-aid.htm>.
4. Registered charity no. 1134649

## Roles Required for Sunday Mornings

Ministry Area	Brief Description
Hosting Team	To welcome people attending the services, give out required information, introduce people to children and youth team, other members of the church as needed. At the end of the service ask new people to join you for coffee. Arrive at 9:45am to ensure the church is ready for the service.
Bible Readers	To join a team of people who give the readings at one of our morning services.
Prayers	To join a team of people who lead the prayers. Prayer frameworks can be provided to assist so you do not have to write all the prayers yourself.
Worship	To help lead the church in musical worship, either by playing a musical instrument or singing with the band.
Sound Desk	To set up, operate and control the sound desk during the services and help pack away microphones and cables after services. Training will be given.
Screens	To run the computer during the service. The computer is provided and the Sunday service will be set up, we have a software package and training will be given.
Prayer Ministry	To offer prayer ministry usually after the service for those who require it. Training will be offered.
Refreshment Team	To work in a team with others to make and serve tea and coffee and clear away afterwards. Everything except the milk is provided.
Kids Church & Mini Church	To help with the children's work on Sunday mornings. Working with the children and alongside other experienced leaders. This is done on a rota basis and all teaching materials are provided.



# St Thomas with St Stephen

## Worship Through Generosity & Gratitude, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Name:

Having taken time to prayerfully consider what God may be calling me to take up, give up or give:

I would like to serve the church in the following role(s):

I would like to step back from the following role(s) at the end of the current rota:

I have the following talent/gifts I would like to offer the church:

You do not need a fixed 'plan', but just a stirring or desire to use a talent in a particular way so we can begin a conversation.

*"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you. Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."*

Romans 12: 1-2