

22 May 2016

As part of this month's "Giving to Support St Mary's campaign", I would like to thank you for your involvement in St Mary's. It's good to have you as part of our church community.

At St Mary's we serve many people in many ways: giving the opportunity for worship to those attending our regular services; sharing the joy of a couple coming to be married or a family bringing their child for baptism; comforting the bereaved. Alongside our regular worship we offer several children's groups every week, a programme of concerts and social events, courses that enable people to discover and deepen their faith, and ministry in local schools and care homes. We are blessed with a wonderful church family, and we try to be active in serving our local community and those who need help or encouragement. In looking after our beautiful church, we maintain an historic building dedicated to the glory of God, along with our active and much-loved churchyard.

All this is possible because of the dedicated commitment of time, skills and energy which people bring to our church and also the financial support given week by week. This is why I am asking for your help today.

Like every household our church needs to keep up with the cost of living. While we are as careful as possible with our funds, expenses like heating, insurance, our clergy and many other day-to-day costs mount up. You may not realise that this comes to a staggering £2,881 each week. We get no money from central funds. We receive some money from funeral and wedding fees and also from fundraising during the year (such as the Ewell Village Fair), but the vast majority comes from regular church members giving faithfully each week through their weekly envelopes or standing orders.

So I want to ask you to help us by reading through the information in the enclosed brochure and then by doing two things:-

1. **join** the growing number of people who are planned givers, by completing and returning the enclosed response form in the envelope provided. There are various different schemes which are used by people in our church. The "Parish Giving Scheme" is a new scheme that an increasing number of people- me included- are now using to give to St Mary's. It's easy to set up and works through your bank account (like other Direct Debits and standing orders) and it also offers various advantages to St Mary's in minimizing administration. We can explain more, and let you have a form if this is what you would like to do. Other people prefer to give through weekly or monthly coloured envelopes- again we can let you have a supply if this is what you prefer. Please will you return the enclosed response form

by Sunday 12 June, and a member of our church treasury team will then be in touch to help you set it all up.

2. **think** about how much you can give to St Mary's. There is helpful guidance in the enclosed brochure. Your giving will be another expression of your commitment to our church and our community and it will also help us plan our activities more effectively.

Thank you for responding to this request. I hope and pray that you will join us in regular financial support for our church's ministry. If you would like more information or want to talk this through with someone please do contact me.

With my appreciation,

Russell Dewhurst
Vicar of Ewell

PS The Planned Giving scheme is vital for our church to be able to keep serving our community. Your part in this can be a great help. Individual financial details will, as always, be confidential to our Planned Giving officer, Miriam Massey, but I will be aware of the overall picture and I will write to thank all those who respond.