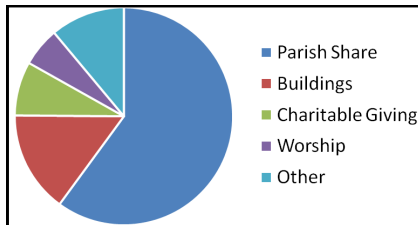


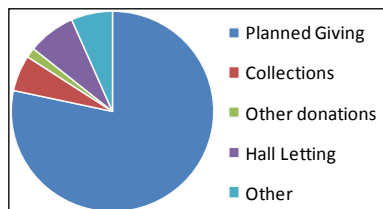
## Each week we spend £3,017:

- £1,812 on our Parish Share to the diocese to pay for our vicar including pension and national insurance contributions and to fund the broader work of the diocese, including training new clergy and upkeep of vicarages.
- £454 on our buildings, including heating lighting, maintenance and repairs.
- £242 to support charities doing Christ's work in our community and further afield.
- £175 on worship, including music at services.
- £334 on other items, including the running of the parish office, photocopying, training and junior church.



## Each week we receive £2,798:

- £2,085 from members of the congregation through our Planned Giving scheme
- £154 from collections during services
- £42 from one-off donations, including legacies
- £204 from letting the hall to various users
- £177 from other sources, including paid advertising in the parish magazine and fundraising concerts



## How much should I give?

### Please think and pray about your response:

There is no easy answer and it is different for everyone. We must think carefully about what we receive from God and prayerfully review our priorities.



### Some guidance to consider:

The General Synod has challenged church members as an initial target to give 5% of their after tax income to and through the Church, and a similar amount to other work that helps build God's kingdom.

For someone on the basic state pension, 5% of after tax income would be £5 per week. Someone earning £25,000 a year would give £80 each month, rising to £150 a month for someone on £50,000 and £270 a month for someone earning £100,000.

*This is a ministry for everyone "each according to your means"  
2 Cor 8:11*

Love is generous, love is kind and love is selfless. We see that in all God gives to us. We are commanded to love God and our neighbour as ourselves. It is no great sacrifice to put someone we love first. But it requires a new set of priorities to put God and the ministry of the church first in our finances; as we do in our weekly worship when we give the first of the week to God in worship.

### Thank you for your gift

For more information please contact:

Lesley Richardson. 01582 623034  
stewardshipchair@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

John Borthwick. 01582 763712  
parishgivingrep@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

ST JOHN'S HARPENDEN  
THE CHURCH ON THE COMMON

## Our Church Our Challenge Our Choices



PARISH GIVING  
2011

*But just as you excel in everything... see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 2 Cor 8:7*

## Our Church

**Our giving sustains parish ministry** -think of every ill person visited, confirmation course run, bereaved family comforted, baptism celebrated, sermon preached, Eucharist celebrated, and every person shown the love of Christ through our care, comfort and compassion.

**Our giving sustains our church building here** - it is a sacred place dedicated to worship, prayer and witness.

**Our giving sustains -parish clergy across the diocese and trains new clergy.**

**Our giving sustains mission both here in this diocese of St Albans, and overseas** - for people we will never meet but to whom we are able to give practical support .

*This ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but overflows with many thanksgivings to God.*

*2 Cor 9:12*

## Our Challenge

St John's needs **£3,017 each week** for its ministry of worship, witness, service and mission, or about **£21 for each person in the congregation** each Sunday.

In 2012 income is expected to fall short of spending by about £219 per week or £11,425 for the whole year.

We have very limited scope to make cost savings, partly because our largest expense, the Parish Share, is not under our control and partly because we have already made those savings we can.

The challenge therefore is to increase our income.



## Our Choices

### Should I join our Planned Giving scheme?

About 180 people and families at St John's give regularly through the Planned Giving scheme.

If you are not yet a member of the scheme please consider joining. If you are already a member, please review how much you give and consider increasing the amount. To join the scheme or amend your giving, please speak to our Parish Giving representative (details overleaf) or fill out the enclosed form.

### Should I remember St John's in my will?

St John's was blessed to receive a significant legacy more than 20 years ago, the "Ted Ward bequest", which has funded a number of major projects we would not otherwise have been able to afford. However, it will be fully exhausted by the replacement of the church roof in 2011.



Remembering St John's in your will is one way to help ensure the future of our church for the next generation.

### Should I make a one-off donation?

If you cannot commit to regular giving or if you wish to top up your regular giving, you can make a one-off donation. When making your donation please fill in one of the "Gift Aid" envelopes available in church to enable us to reclaim some of the tax on your donation.

Envelopes can be placed in the weekly collection.

## Did you know?

**St. John's is funded almost exclusively by donations from our congregation.** Over 85% of our income comes from donations from members of our congregation.

We do not receive grants from the government, the diocese or the rest of the Church of England, or from other charities.

**We are blessed with a large congregation, but this significantly adds to our costs.**



A part of our Parish Share is calculated based on church attendance. This costs **£3.50** each week for every member of the congregation over 16.

**St John's welcomes all members of the congregation.** Whether your worship with us is short or long-term we encourage you to make a contribution to the life of St. John's, spiritually, socially, practically and financially.

**St. John's has very few reserves.** At the current rate of income and expenditure, we can cover any shortfall for only about 3 years.

