



20th July 2017

Mid-year update from the Treasurer

Dear St Andrew's Family,

Firstly, just to flag that the annual giving statements are now ready for collection. It really helps to have you review them and let me know if we need to make changes in your address, tax status or, heaven forbid, if you spot a mistake that the gift aid secretary may have made. Very importantly, sending out these statements also gives us a chance to say thank you to each of you (thank you also to those who give through CAF and get separate gift aid reporting). Hopefully they are also helpful for those who have to fill in a tax return. Also, just to mention that the diocese has begun a new service called the Parish Giving Scheme where gift aid is administered centrally. We are reviewing the pros and cons of moving into that scheme and will keep you posted.

Gift aid continues to be a major source of funding for the church – we recovered over £81,000 last year. If you pay sufficient tax, then we can claim back tax on your gift. A gift of £100 is worth £125 to St Andrew's when gift aided. If you are a higher rate tax payer you can claim back the difference between your higher rate and the basic rate. If you think you may be able to gift aid your support, do let me know or pick up a form from the carousel or print one off from the website.

Thank you also to those who have set up standing orders. It's a huge percentage of you, which does make planning and admin much easier. Having said that, it goes without saying that we also hugely appreciate giving through the envelopes and the weekly plate too. I know that some of you have irregular cash flows and that for some too, there's the sense that by writing a cheque or putting cash in the basket, we have a reminder of the sacrifice that we're offering to the Lord. But whichever way you give: Thank You!

Money and Discipleship Verse of the Month – Matthew 22v21

“So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's”

As Tim highlighted back in May, Jesus' response to the Pharisees' question raised another question: so what is God's then? And the answer is that we are God's. As our money bears the Queen's image, so we bear God's image. As we give our taxes to HMRC, so we give ourselves to God. In fending off the Pharisees cynical question, Jesus tells us that we are God's treasured possession.



St Andrew's
Chorleywood

Financial Anorak's corner

For those who want a few more details:

1. After the 15% fall in unrestricted giving last year, we are currently running up around 2% on 2016 and usefully ahead of our cautious budget.
2. Overall attendance is continuing to track above the level of the last couple of years.
3. Costs remain under good control and are running below budget. However, as we look to take on a curate next year further reductions will be more difficult. We couldn't continue to control our costs so effectively without our wonderful staff and the amazing team of volunteers who help make the church tick.

As you all know, we are so grateful for your continued and generous giving, so as I wish you a good summer, I want to end with great thanks once again to you and to God for your continuing generosity.

Yours sincerely

John Ford

PS if anyone would like to chat about any aspect of the above or have spotted an error in our database records do feel free to contact me in church, via the parish office on 01923 447111 or at parish.office@st-andrews.org.uk