



Giving to Grow God's Kingdom

“Where your treasure is,
there will be your heart also.”

Matthew 6:21



Our Vision

Dear Friends

This is an exciting time as we look to grow our ministry as a church.

Last Sunday we presented our vision and strategy for the next 3 years, to enable us to better fulfil our mission to build God's kingdom in Ashted and beyond. We seek to know Christ more deeply and make Him known to more people.



To do this, we need the support of everyone who considers themselves 'part of the church', to ensure we continue to grow and our vision becomes reality for God's glory. This support is through prayer, service and financial generosity.

We are currently the 14th largest Church of England church in the country and are blessed with a number of paid staff. They, with the invaluable support of many volunteers and lay leaders, enable and oversee our ministry to the whole parish, care for our premises and ensure we are compliant with legislation and good practice. We have recently been fortunate to expand our staff team with the appointment of a Leader of Contemporary Music and an Assistant to Youth and Children's Ministry, to enable these areas of ministry to develop further. This will also help us to welcome and involve more members of the church in ministry as we go forward. We are grateful to have two lovely church buildings with excellent adjoining facilities, large churchyard and four houses to accommodate staff.

To maintain and grow our ministry and facilities requires members of the church to commit to **regular financial giving**. The Bible teaches that part of our response to a generous God, and of our discipleship journey, is to be generous in return. In this leaflet you will find some examples of what your generosity has enabled us to do and of what we hope to do as we go forward together.

Thank you to everyone who gives regularly, both financially and through your time. I am most grateful. I'm now inviting everyone to read this leaflet and, having considered the teaching in recent weeks, to prayerfully review your financial support.

Please complete the **Response Form** (available in church & on church website) **and return** either to the collection boxes in both churches or to the Parish Office by **3 November 2019**.

Thank you and In His Love

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Richard Jones'.

Growing our Ministry Intentionally

Pathways

Jesus met people where they were and invited them to follow Him and grow. Our hope is that we can develop the many ways we connect with people as a parish church and encourage them along a pathway to knowing Jesus and growing in faith.

Connecting

There are many ways that people connect with Jesus through the church – through life events, attending an event/group, seasonal services, friends and so on. We would like to develop our outreach to provide more points of connection with people where they are, especially with those parts of the community that we don't currently reach effectively.

Gathering

Once people have connected, we aim to provide a range of opportunities to gather in worship and fellowship. We're working on developing our services across different expressions, to provide the best we can in both traditional and contemporary worship. We also aim to offer gatherings appropriate for different ages and stages of life, tailored to particular needs and interests.



Serving

Mature discipleship involves serving God and others with our time and talents. Our aim is to encourage every church member to serve in some way, through help with identifying people's gifts and providing appropriate training and support. We aim to improve our structure, culture and communication so that all can serve effectively in ways that are appropriate for their stage of life and situation.

Growing

Maturing as disciples is foundational for us. This happens through teaching, study, prayer, encouragement, trying new things and so on. Through our services, teaching programme, housegroups and a range of opportunities to learn and develop in our faith, we hope this will be a reality for all of us. We also want to be a resource to other churches to help them grow.

Some examples of the difference your generosity is making.....

Children and Families

- ◇ Each free 'Drop In and Play' session during the summer holidays was attended by over 100 people; for some this was their first contact with the church.

'It's great that you do 'drop in and play', all the other groups have closed for the summer and this is just what I needed' **A parent**

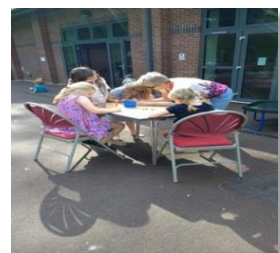
- ◇ Over 1,000 children hear a Christian message each month or more through regular assemblies and visits to our local primary schools.
- ◇ Messy Church has run for 8 months and is connecting with families who don't come to other services, offering activities on a Bible theme, a short worship service and a complimentary meal.
- ◇ The number of children and carers attending Little Flames and the Ark has almost doubled in the past year, to around 80 children plus carers each week.



Open the Book Assembly



Preaching at The Six



Messy Church

Youth

- ◇ We offer a range of provision for 11-18 year olds, through mid week groups, social activities and our Sunday programme.
- ◇ 26 young people attended the Soul Survivor Christian festival in August.

'God has really shown me that I am loved... he's really helped me come out of my shell and grow in confidence' **Young person**

- ◇ We are working on developing mentoring opportunities for our young people, as well as training them to serve our church and community in a variety of ways.
- ◇ We have developed our provision and support for students and young adults through regular gatherings and services.

Pastoral Care

Our Leader of Pastoral Care oversees a wide programme of visitation and support to people both in the church and wider community, often taking referrals from GPs or other agencies.

- ◇ Developing link with Send Prison
- ◇ Support groups for those who have been bereaved
- ◇ Summertime Social for the elderly and Kingfishers Week for adults with learning disabilities
'Summertime Social was such a wonderful 3 days....it makes such a difference to my life' Beryl
- ◇ In the last year 2 people have completed the Diocesan training to become licensed Pastoral Assistants, joining an existing team.

You have shone light into their lives week-in and week-out. I am so proud of all the different ways in which you contribute – whether directly through courses, pastoral care, music, social activities, or indirectly through the office support that keeps it all going. I am truly amazed at all the time and energy and love that you commit to our women.

Chaplain HMP Send

Discipleship and Spiritual Growth

A range of courses and opportunities has been offered to help people grow and mature in faith, including the St Mellitus courses, a teaching series on Revelation, the Alpha course, spiritual book groups and a number of sessions run by visiting speakers.

I have found that my prayer and spiritual life has grown by being fed by the varied approaches to prayer and courses that have been led in The Prayer Room & Prayer Garden.....it has encouraged and energized me and I look forward to more opportunities in the future... Trish

We have made some changes to our services to help us better connect with our community and reach those we currently don't reach.

Engaging with our community

Through our church centres and two cafes, we aim to offer a warm welcome to all in our community. Our facilities are used for a wide range of events and groups. They need to be well maintained, attractive and compliant with all requirements.

How do we resource our ministry?

Our ministry is funded almost entirely by donation, supplemented by some hire income and set fees from weddings and funerals. We don't receive any government funding or money from the central church.

The responsibility to keep our ministry going and growing is ours.

It costs around £2,200 per day to keep our churches and centres staffed, open and running. This daily cost includes an annual amount paid to the Diocese of Guildford (called Parish Share) to help fund clergy, central services and other churches - this is currently £271,000 per year. Additionally, historic buildings such as St Giles' can require more costly maintenance and repairs.

10% of our income from giving is used to support mission agencies and partners both in this country and overseas.

We are most grateful to all who give of their time, talents and treasure in any way. However, like many churches, we tend to rely on a few large donors and on legacies – which makes it difficult to plan for the future.

We need as many people as possible to commit to **regular giving**, at a level that is appropriate for each person, to help us plan for the future and ensure we can meet our commitments to staff and the wider church.

By 2023 our aim is to increase our worshipping community by 10%

In the coming year we hope we can increase our planned giving by 10% - that's £52,000



Prayer Garden at the Dell Centre

How can you help grow our ministry?

We hope that every member will be engaged in church life, through worship, prayer, service and giving.

We honour a faithful and generous God who invites us to be and build His kingdom. A key component of discipleship is honouring God with our finances. There are over 2,300 verses in the Bible on money, wealth and possessions. Jesus talked about these subjects frequently. In fact, it was a favourite subject in the parables. Did you know that over one third of the parables address these areas of our daily life? Jesus clearly wanted his disciples to honour Him in this area of our lives.

We encourage everyone to offer something, however small or large, at a level that is affordable for you. We give what we can, so that God can do immeasurably more.



If 650 people increased their weekly giving by the price of a cup of coffee in Starbucks, this would increase our annual income for ministry by £84,500!

If you do not currently give regularly, please consider setting up a standing order or another method of planned giving. Details of how you can do this are on the accompanying response leaflet or the church website.

If you already give regularly, can you review your giving to reflect your current financial circumstances?

Can you Gift Aid your donations if you don't already? This increases your giving by 25% at no cost to yourself. Details are on the accompanying response leaflet.

Could you consider leaving a legacy to the church in your will?

Please complete the accompanying response form and return to the labelled box at each church or to the Parish Office (St George's) by 3 November 2019.

"But since you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you --see that you also excel in this grace of giving"

2 Corinthians 8: 7

Please see the response leaflet or our church website for details of how you can give:

www.sgsgashtead.com/giving

Resourcing our Vision

Alongside Richard (Rector), Nico (Associate Minister) and Sharon (Leader of Pastoral Care), we have been blessed with new staff who bring a wealth of experience to the parish and share our passion for 'Knowing Christ and making Him known'.

Here are some of the things we are looking forward to realising.....



I would love to grow and develop the way we reach out to families in our wider community, helping through social action, pastoral care and various courses. Our aim would be to bridge the gap, so there is a greater sense of connection and belonging.

Sharon



Our hope is to see young people actively engaged in a youth ministry that they themselves are helping to grow. We long for a generation of young disciples walking with Jesus and going deeper in their spirituality.

Sean



Our hope is to encourage each child to develop their inborn spirituality and help them find a personal and living faith. Also to enable them to learn about the Bible in a fun and interactive way.

Jaynie



My prayer is that God would help us to find ways to go deeper in our worship, to grow in our appreciation of the multitude of ways how to express it and to build each other up.

Mirkku

We are also privileged to have an operations team who oversee the day to day running and maintenance of our churches and centres, provide administrative support and deal with enquiries.

Thank you for reading this leaflet and considering your response.