

## Giving

This is a summary of the points referred to by Alastair Smith, our Treasurer, in his talks on 15 May.

- Paul writes that “...each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion”. Our giving should therefore be a heartfelt response similar to the way we respond to prayer or worship.
- These words of Paul should encourage us because they positively tell us that our giving should not be out of a sense of guilt for “God loves a cheerful giver”.
- Giving is about much more than money - time is often a scarcer commodity than cash. For some, the 'right' response might be to give more of the former & less of the latter.
- Why do we appeal for continued and increased giving? St George's, in common with all Anglican parishes, has to pay its way; for us, this includes the upkeep of our main church building plus maintenance of two other properties we own, support for the diverse range of activities which takes place throughout every day of the week and financial support for about 20 adults and their 14 dependants based in the UK and overseas.
- Our budgeted spend for 2005 will be around £248,000 if we carry out all the activities we have planned and about 75% of this will go on 'people costs'. This amounts to about £900 for each adult member of the congregation. For the first 3 months of 2005, both our income and expenditure were broadly in line with budget. However, some of our regular givers are moving on and we need to replace their financial contributions.
- I would encourage everyone to take some time to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider their giving – thank you to those who have already done so. Any member of the Staff or Treasury Teams will be happy to discuss with you any questions you may have about giving.
- Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 9 go further than just talking about cheerful giving making a vital link between sowing what we reap. Here are his words in full: “.....Remember whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver, and God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work .....