

PLEDGE of PLANNED GIVING

Existing Church Supporters

I currently contribute by Standing Order

I will increase the monthly amount to £.....
(please instruct your bank)

I currently contribute by Envelope

I will increase the weekly amount to £.....

OR I will pay a monthly amount by Standing Order £.....
(please complete the form below)

New Church Supporters

I agree to pay the PCC of Waltham St Lawrence

Each month by Standing Order the sum of £.....
(please complete the form below)

OR Each week by envelope £.....
(you will receive a pack shortly)

I am a taxpayer and wish all amounts given to Waltham St Lawrence PCC under this pledge to be treated as Gift Aid donations. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Title First Name Last Name

Address

Postcode..... Phone Signature

To the Manager,Bank

Address

Please pay from the account shown below the sum of £ on theday

of 2017 , and on the day of each month until further notice, to Barclays Bank Maidenhead, sort code 20-78-58, account no 70921378 for the credit of Waltham St Lawrence PCC.

Signature.....Date.....

Account Name

Sort Code Account No



February 2017

**The Parish Church of
Waltham St Lawrence
Planned Giving in 2017**

Dear Reader

The church has literally been at the centre of Waltham St Lawrence for more than 900 years. It offers church services for those who wish to attend, regularly or occasionally. In true Church of England fashion it is present for the whole community, notably for baptisms, weddings and funerals. The role of the church is crucial for national occasions such as Remembrance Day. Christmas and Easter are very important times when the congregations swell for special services that celebrate the birth, death and resurrection of our Saviour Jesus.

We ask that all who enjoy coming to church services will give generously and also consider the planned giving scheme, helping the church not just to maintain its position but also to flourish and be available for all who attend or are in need.

Wishing you every blessing,

Charles and the whole church family

WHY DO WE NEED TO ACT?

Regular giving by parishioners is the backbone of any parish, funding all the essential aspects of church life without which we wouldn't have a living Christian community. Until recently, because of the income deficit, the parish was unable to pay its full share towards central costs, mainly of training, paying and housing clergy, which meant that effectively people in other parishes were giving on behalf of us as well as their own church. Our recovery programme has meant that we are currently able to pay our share but, given the voluntary nature of all our income, we cannot be sure this will continue. Meanwhile electricity, oil and water also have to be paid for, the church has to be insured, and there is a wide range of smaller expenses, from candles and communion wafers to organ tuning and music books. Every so often major expenditures arise such as organ repairs and replacement of the heating control system as well as the welcome refurbishment of the churchyard wall – a significant improvement to the view from The Bell. In addition we are expanding our work with children – Messy Church and 3G are just two examples.

All of this means that in 2016 our annual outgoings were in excess of £80,000.

Our present financial situation is not sustainable in the long term

Around 60 local families and individuals donate regularly, and we take this opportunity to thank them most sincerely. The community outside the congregation has also supported us magnificently over the years. However, we are too dependent on one-off donations, grants and fund-raising events like the fête and church teas, just in order to meet our normal obligations.

We know that the day-to-day running of the parish is our responsibility, and no-one else's.

Many supporters of the church are not enrolled in the planned giving scheme. It is also clear that a great many of us have not reviewed our giving for several years.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

“All things come from you, O Lord, and of your own have we given you”

(1 Chronicles 29.14)

There are many ways for us to respond to this biblical axiom. Individuals sometimes choose to donate a percentage of their net income after essential outgoings. The key point is that all our assets are a trust from God.

All we ask is that you consider whether your current giving truly reflects your commitment to the work of our church. There is no right or wrong answer, and only you will know how and why you have decided what you will give. If you are making such a commitment for the first time, we hope this leaflet will help, but please ask for advice if you need it.

So please take a thoughtful look at your regular giving and consider whether you could increase your commitment. We appreciate that for some these are difficult times financially, but we have complete confidence that, now the thorny subject of giving has been raised, you will want to do what is right, just as you have in the past.

THE NEXT STEP

If you are not giving a regularly-pledged amount, please consider doing so now; if you are, perhaps you can increase your pledge. A weekly envelope is simple and easy, but giving monthly by Bank Standing Order is even better. It saves stationery, and counting time, and you don't have to fill an envelope. And if you pay through the bank, please don't worry about not putting anything in the plate!

So now:

- **Please complete the form on the back of this leaflet, making sure you tick the Gift Aid box if you are eligible***
- **Bring it to church in a sealed envelope, addressed to the Gift Aid Officer, on any Sunday, and hand it to a Churchwarden.**

If you are unable to get to church, please post it to:

**Chris Woodhams, Gift Aid Officer, 7 Selborne Court,
Reading, RG1 3BW**

**To be eligible for Gift Aid you must have paid tax (Income or Capital Gains Tax, including Tax Credits on dividend income) at least equal to the amount the charity will claim on your donation in the appropriate tax year (currently 25p on each £1 of your donation).*

Please speak to one of the following if you need help:

David Crawley-Boevey (Churchwarden) 0118 934 3225
Bertie Gilbert-Smith (Churchwarden) 0118 934 3479
Chris Woodhams (Gift Aid Officer) 07860 856057