

# Stewardship

## What is Stewardship?

- Our responsibility for that which is entrusted to us,
- which we have the task of taking care of.
- The ethic which embodies responsible management and care.

There are various places we are called to exercise responsible stewardship:  
Of the world, one another, and the Church.

We can help take care of these in various ways:  
giving time, offering a resource or skill, or donating financially.



This month we have been thinking about God's creation, celebrating its goodness and considering how we can be better stewards of the world. Recently we have also been thinking about our responsibility to, and treatment of, one another. Today, we are thinking about the Church, and how we share our gifts from God to care for others, our community and the world, through the ministry of the Church.

## Stewardship in the Church

We are asking everyone to kindly consider their stewardship to the Church; your prayerful offering of your time, talents and/or resources to help us continue to bring God's love to the local community. We are inviting you to think about what you can offer, or pledge, to enable our ministry and mission to develop, grow and flourish.

We are always in need of people's time and talents to support our work and help us to develop and grow. This year in particular, we are in even more need of people to consider their financial support of the Church as well.



St. Guthlac's Church – The heart of the community.  
Your money – The lifeblood that keeps the heart going.

## St. Guthlac's Church Finances

**It costs £1677 a week to keep the Church open and having services.  
So maintaining worship, ministry and mission in Market Deeping  
costs £240 per day.**

This is the bare minimum to maintain our ministry and does not take into account inflation, developing or increasing our ministry, or any necessary major building works.

### This cost comes from our outgoings:

Parish Share	£58,300
Insurance	£3,700
Utilities	£6,100
Maintenance	£2,300
Organ/choir	£7,500
Service requisites	£2,300
Expenses	£4,700
Printing	£2,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£87,200</b>

We receive no money from the Government or Church of England.  
The life of the Church is funded by you.

**Please accept a huge  
THANK YOU for this.**

### The Church's income

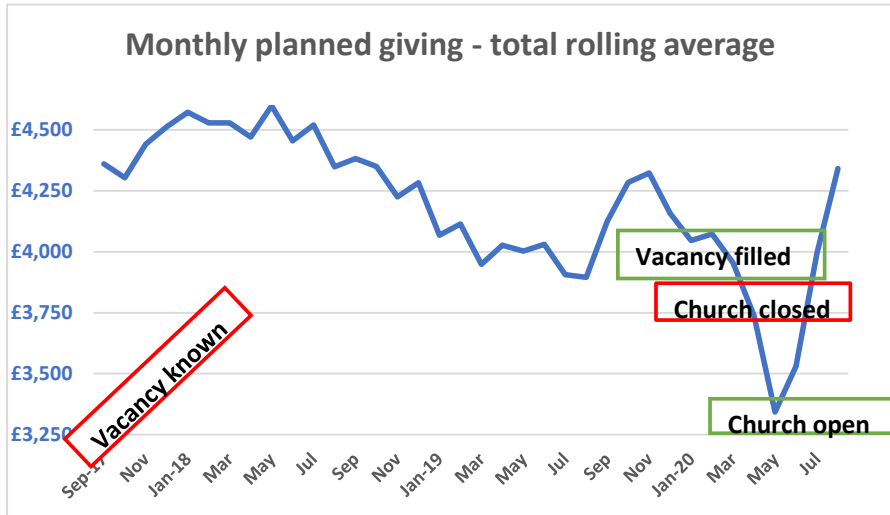
We rely on money kindly coming in from donations, fees and fund-raising. Wedding and funeral fees amounted to about £7000 in 2019, but this year we have had no weddings and few funerals. Fund-raising raised about £7000 in 2019, but it has been almost impossible to fund-raise this year. **Therefore we rely on donations to keep**

**the Church and ministry continuing.** We depend on donations from a variety of sources, including regular and one-off donations, legacies, AmazonSmile, etc. **We receive most of our income from planned giving, which we are incredibly grateful for, and reliant on.** Thank you.

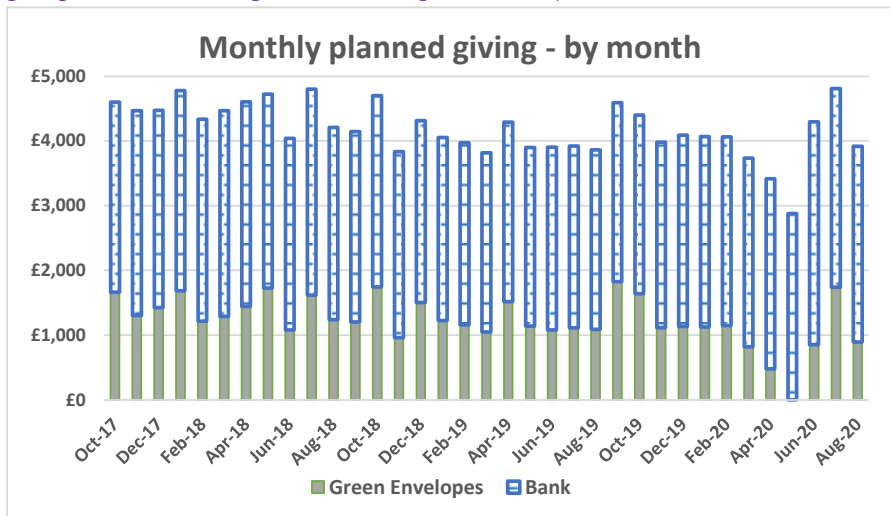


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The amount of planned giving received from September 2017– July 2020



The planned giving received from October 2017-August 2020, highlighting the giving via bank standing order and via green envelopes



As you can see, giving via the bank is the most reliable way to donate to the Church, as it is stable. So if you are able to donate through your bank that is helpful, though we understand it is not possible for all and the green envelope scheme remains a positive alternative, which we are grateful for.

### The current situation

As you can see from the graphs, over the years, **our donations, and therefore income, has decreased. Our outgoings though, have increased**, despite a careful handling of our finances. This has been a year like no other for us all. The Covid 19 pandemic has affected us all in many ways, including our Church's finances. We have not been able to hold many fund-raising and social events, have not been able to have any weddings, and had no funerals and baptisms for most of the year. Due to this loss of fees and donations, **we estimate a short fall of £14,000. So we are struggling financially. Now, more than ever, we need your help please to continue to maintain and develop our Church and ministry in the local area.**

### Planned Giving – Every pledge counts

**We are hopeful our shortfall can be restored by kind regular donations.** Planned giving is the simplest way to donate to the life of the Church. It enables us to know how much regular income there will be, therefore enabling us to plan well. We would be grateful if you could please consider joining us in our efforts to bridge the gap between our outgoings and income. You can donate regularly by Standing Order through your bank or the green envelope scheme, though the bank is more reliable. Details needed for setting up a Standing Order are on the Pledged Giving form. If you are a tax payer please Gift Aid your donation; we can then reclaim tax at no extra cost to you –just fill in a Gift Aid form. Every pledge, no matter the size, is gratefully received as a valued contribution to our ministry. **Please think carefully about this and if possible fill in a pledge form and bring to Church on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October, for our 10:00am Service.** Thank you.

### Other ways to donate

Additional simple ways to support the life of the Church and our ministry:

- **Legacies** – An easy way to make a lasting gift and difference to the future of your church and community is to remember to include the Church in your will.
- **AmazonSmile** – If you shop online with Amazon please use AmazonSmile. It offers the same products at the same prices and donates 0.5% of eligible purchases to a charity. Choosing the Church as your charity is an effortless way to give to the Church. See our website for details on setting this up.
- **Online donation** – A donation can be made online at any time via the 'Give a Little' link, under the 'Support our outreach' section of the Church's website: [www.stguthlacs.org.uk](http://www.stguthlacs.org.uk)

**Thank you again. We appreciate all you do and continue to do in any way relating to stewardship and the life of the Church. We are grateful.**