

**St. Guthlac's Church – Reaching out in love,
Growing in faith, Welcoming all.
Finances – Enabling us to achieve our Vision.**

Stewardship 2021

Stewardship is about taking care of what has been entrusted to us
& which we are therefore responsible for.

There are various places we are called to exercise responsible stewardship,
including towards our world, one another, & the Church.

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

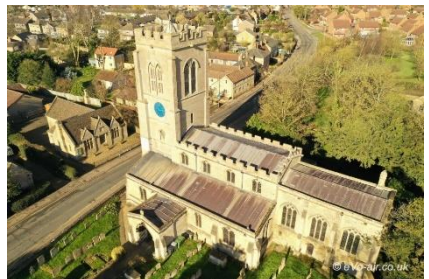


Last month we focused on God's amazing world & our responsibility towards it. We have increasingly been thinking about how we can best support one another. Today we are considering how we can be good stewards of the Church & how to use our gifts from God to care for others, our community & the world, through the ministry of the Church.

Reaching out in love, Growing in faith, Welcoming all

At the core of our new vision statement is a desire to care for one another, whoever you are, in practical, pastoral & spiritual ways.

We aim to support our local community, as well as our wonderful Church building, services & activities.



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Stewardship in the Church

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

We are always in need of people's time & talents to support our work. Due to the pandemic, we are in even more need for you to consider your financial support of the Church as well. **We can only fulfil our vision for the future because of your support. Thank you.**



St. Guthlac's Church Finances

It costs £87, 200 a year, that's £1677 a week , to keep the Church, services & ministry alive in Market Deeping. That's £240 per day!

This is the same as 2020 even though our activities reduced due to lockdowns. It is the minimum to maintain our ministry & does not allow for inflation, building works or increasing our ministry in the community.

The Churches outgoings include:

- Maintaining the buildings (e.g. insurance, utility bills, etc.),
- Worship (e.g. services requisites, the organ, etc.),
- Sustaining ministry across Market Deeping & supporting Lincoln Diocese (which enables the continuation of ministry in our Parish).

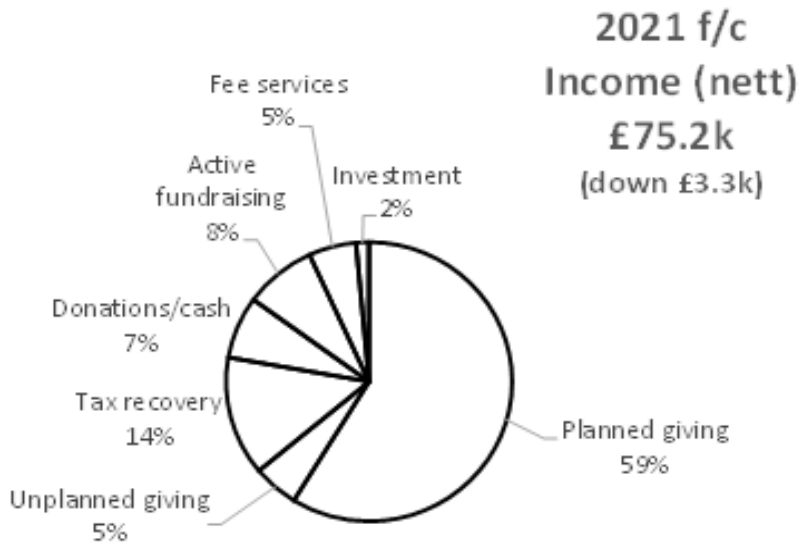
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The Churches income

We receive no money from the Government or Church of England. We rely on donations, fees & fund-raising (see below chart). Wedding & funeral fees amounted to about £7000 in 2019, but this year we had just one wedding & few funerals. Fund raising has been very difficult too.

Therefore we depend on donations to keep the Church & ministry going & growing. We receive most of our income from regular monthly or weekly donations, known as 'planned giving', which we are incredibly grateful for.

So the life of the Church is funded by you. **THANK YOU.**

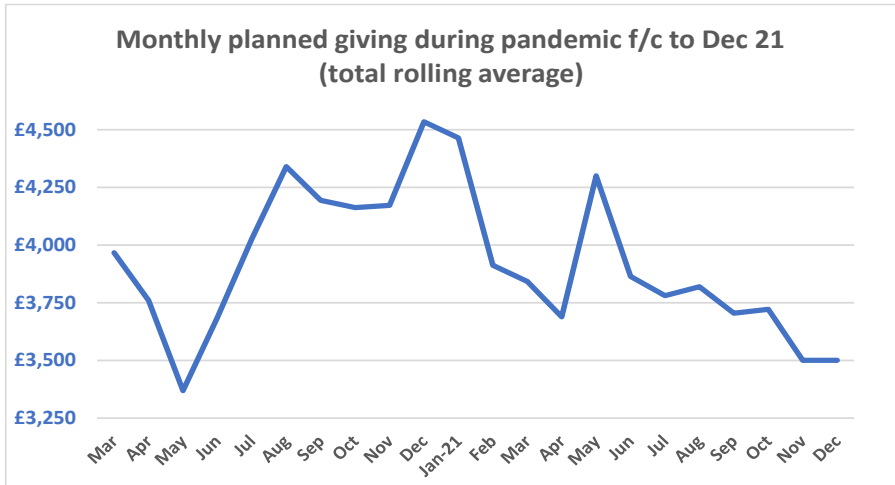


The current situation

Over the years, donations have decreased. The amount of planned givers has shrunk by about 20%. Our outgoings though have increased, despite a careful handling of our finances. The pandemic has greatly affected Church's finances. **Worryingly, we currently estimate a short fall at the end of the year of £18,000.** So now more than ever we need your help to continue to maintain & develop our Church & ministry in the local area.

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The amount of planned giving received during the pandemic:



A decrease in finances is particularly worrying as we have necessary works needed on the Church roof, need to improve our communication capabilities & children's work, & increase our support of the local community.

We are hopeful our shortfall can be restored by kind regular donations & that we can reverse the trend of decreasing finances before it is too late.

How can you help?

We would be grateful if you would please consider joining us in our efforts to bridge the gap between our outgoings & income. Planned giving is the simplest way to donate to the life of the Church & helps us to plan well. You can donate regularly by Standing Order through your bank or the green envelope scheme (via the bank is the most reliable way to donate). Details for this are on the Pledged Giving form. Every pledge, no matter the size, is gratefully received as a valued contribution to our ministry. **Please think carefully & prayerfully about this & if possible fill in a pledge form & bring to Church on Sunday 7th November, for our 10:00am Service.**

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