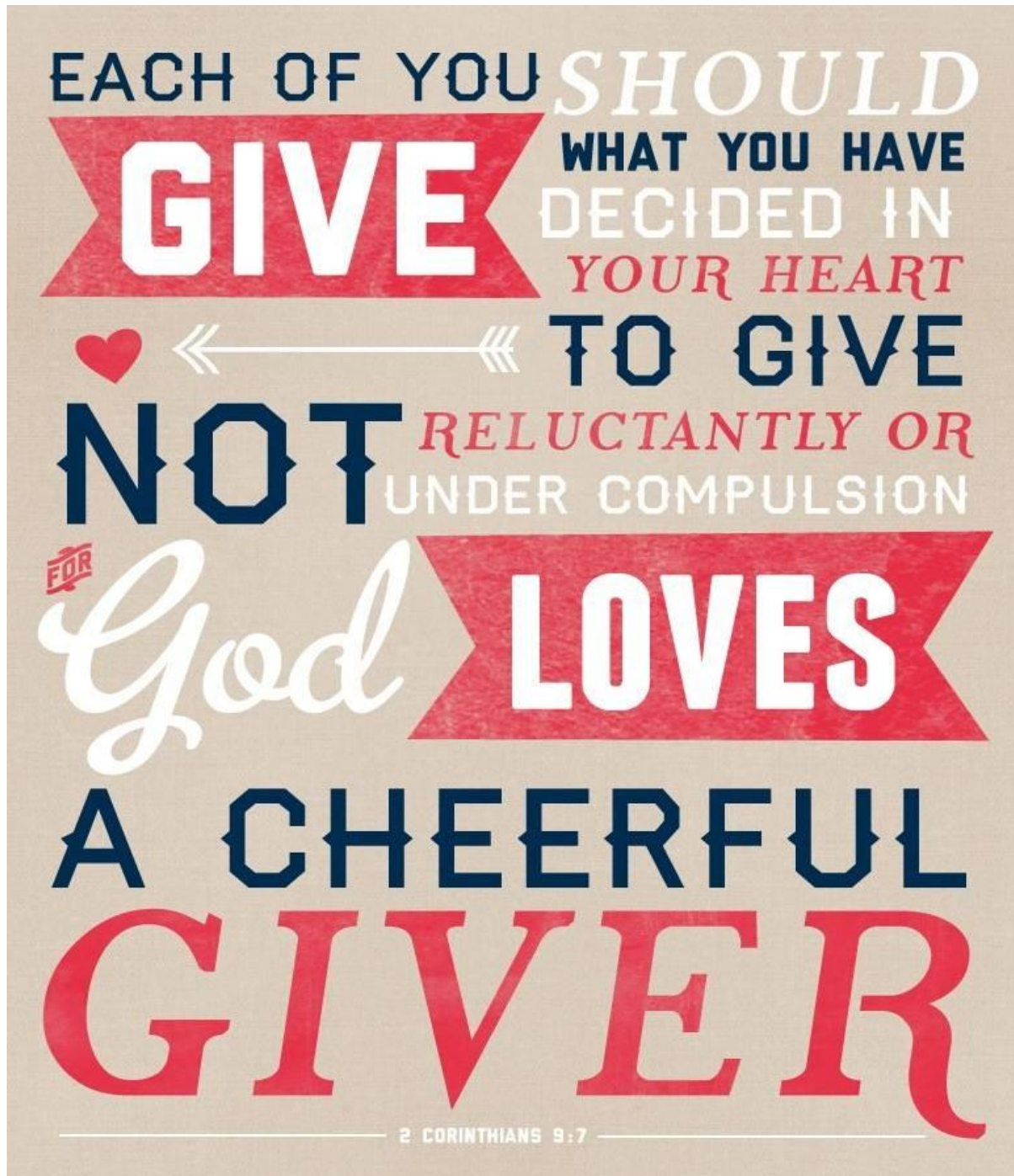


All Saints Ilkley



Stewardship Sunday
March 23rd 2025



'Stewardship Sunday' is the annual opportunity for the All Saints church family to prayerfully reflect on its financial support for the mission and ministry at All Saints.

The first thing to say is '**thank you.**' I can't overstate how vital your prayerful and practical support has been in the last year to our church. I'm so grateful that when everyone is facing financial challenges, the financial support for our mission and ministry at All Saints has been generous and sacrificial.

In this booklet is information about our current financial position and the financial challenges and issues we face as a church. You will also find information about how you can give in the most efficient and effective way, and also how you can continue giving to All Saints after your death through a legacy in your will.

A helpful definition of Christian stewardship is that it is "*financial giving, to resource a spiritual vision, to produce a fruitful harvest for the Gospel.*"

In 2021 I shared four talks on 'Foundations for Future Mission at All Saints'. The summary of what I said was that our future mission at All Saints had to be built on;

1. *A faith in Jesus Christ that is 100%, present tense & obvious.*
2. *A proactive commitment to All Saints in service & giving.*
3. *An outward-facing attitude putting the needs of others first.*
4. *A mission centred Gospel attitude in everything we do.*

(The videos are still available on our YouTube channel and the accompanying notes are at <https://bit.ly/ASI-FOUNDATIONS>.)

These are still our mission priorities at All Saints and they continue to give us a foundation, framework and focus for our short, medium and long-term strategy.

We plan to intentionally use the resources that God has given us to be both a blessing to our local community and a beacon for the Gospel.

Therefore, as you are invited to reflect on your financial giving to All Saints, the first question to ask is not 'how much should I give?' but 'what will my giving be used for?'. If I were in your shoes, three questions I would want to know the answer to are ...

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1. *What are the financial challenges facing All Saints?*
2. *How has All Saints used its financial resources to achieve its mission priorities in the last few years?*
3. *How does All Saints intend to use its financial resources to achieve its mission priorities in the next few years?*

Without knowing the answer to the first question, you will have no context for considering your response to Stewardship Sunday.

And without knowing the answers to the other two questions, you should rightly wonder whether any future financial support of All Saints will be effectively used!

So let me answer those questions.

1. What are the financial challenges facing All Saints?

- In 2024 our income was £275K - 3% more than 2023.
- In 2024 our expenses were £299K - 6% more than 2023.
- We had a surplus in 2022, through generous legacies, but increasing expenses in 2023 & 2024 made both deficit years.
- In 2024 we exclusively focussed on fundraising for Phase 2.
- A large part of our increased expenses is because we have employed a full-time Children's & Youth Ministry Leader.
- Our 2025 budget plans for a small increase in revenue.
- We hope to balance 2025 expenses against budgeted income.
- In 2023 & 2024, we paid 100% of our Parish Share requests (£166K & £158K respectively).
- In 2025, we plan to pay 100% of our Parish Share request (£157K).
- More information about the Diocesan Parish Share is at ...
<https://www.leeds.anglican.org/how-we-can-help/finance-and-stewardship/finance-support/parish-share-explained/>

2. How has All Saints used its financial resources to achieve its mission priorities in the last few years?

a. We have invested in our children's & youth ministry

When Adam Robinson was appointed in 2023 as our 'Children's & Youth Ministry Leader', a key part of his role was to be a part of the strategic leadership team to substantively influence the shape of our future mission. Two priorities we identified were to be more intentional about outreach to families with school-aged children and helping to move All Saints to be more intergenerational.

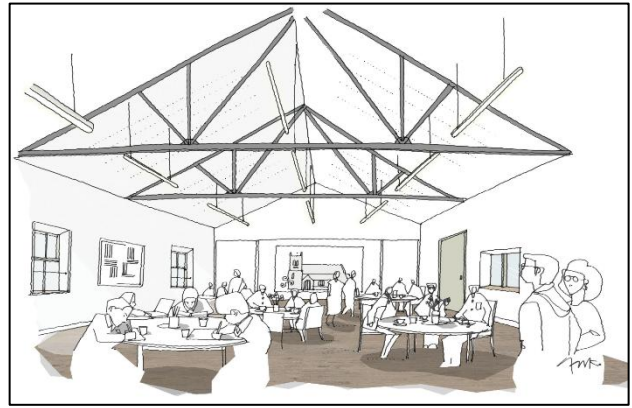


In the two years Adam has been in post he has (amongst other things)...

- *Taken on the leadership and oversight of our children's and youth groups (Saints and Little Saints, Release, TNT, Focus).*
- *Supported our 'Joining the Dots' group.*
- *Led youth group weekends to Yorkshire Camps.*
- *Planned and led the 'Goodbye to Church House' youth group weekend.*
- *Developed 'intergenerational' services and the 'IGNITE' services at All Saints Primary School as a regular part of our Sunday worship pattern.*
- *Planned interactive Christmas and Easter trails around church.*
- *Planned and led our annual 'Light' Party.*
- *Taken the lead in our partnership with All Saints Primary School through*
 - *regular collective worships,*
 - *RE Lessons to various year groups,*
 - *planning and leading Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers services,*
 - *leading secondary school transition events for year 6's,*
 - *hosted the annual visit of All Saints School's link school in Bradford to the church.*
- *Led Christian-based assemblies for various year groups and inputted to the annual 'Diversity Day' at Ilkley Grammar School.*
- *At my invitation led the All Saints 'Worship Task group' - a significant strategic group looking at how we can make our Sunday services more missional to families with school-aged children.*

b. We have invested in our buildings

One of the great blessings of 2024 was the successful fundraising campaign for Phase 2 of our building redevelopment. Last year we exclusively focussed our 'Stewardship Appeal' to the church family on raising funds for Phase 2 and through the gracious provision of God by the generous and sacrificial giving of the church family throughout the year, we were able to begin the work on Phase 2A (upstairs in Church House) in January.



We have also recently been able to give the go-ahead for substantive work to be done on Phase 2B (in 6 Church Street) which is an additional blessing and encouragement. We are planning to have the grand reopening of Church House on Easter Sunday (April 20th) so look out for further information.

Our intention has always been to use our buildings and facilities as a means to...

i. Enhance our worship and fellowship as a church family

- *Weekly Sunday & Wednesday worship services with extended fellowship and ministry for everyone who attends.*
- *Children's & youth groups on Sunday and Tuesday.*
- *'Joining the Dots' on a Thursday.*

ii. Provide a source of income to fund our mission and ministry

- *A concert venue ('Beatles by Candlelight', the Ilkley-Coutances twinning concert, choral and jazz band concerts).*
- *An orchestra venue (Ilkley Chamber Orchestra, Ilkley Philharmonic Orchestra).*
- *A cultural venue (Ilkley Literature Festival, Ilkley Civic Society, Ilkley Flower Show).*
- *As an education venue (music and singing tuition groups, bereavement workshops, 1-to-1 Maths & English tuition sessions).*
- *As a meeting place for special interest groups (Wine Appreciation Group, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, U3A groups).*
- *As a charity fundraising event venue (Airedale Hospitals Spring Fair, Martin House craft afternoon, CTI 2000 plant sale event).*
- *As a venue for administrative meetings (Management AGMs, Ilkley BID AGM).*
- *As a venue for special family occasions (Birthday parties, wedding receptions, after-funeral refreshments).*
- *As a conference venue (Alpha Days, PCC away days).*

iii. Be a blessing to the local community

- *Letting 4 Church Street to the Ilkley Foodbank for free.*
- *Hosting a support group for the local Ukrainian community.*
- *A meeting point and base for agencies supporting homeless & vulnerable people.*
- *A series of parenting support group meetings run by Bradford Council.*
- *A venue for events for churches from CTI, the Deanery, Bradford Episcopal Area and Leeds Diocese.*
- *Hosting visits by our church school (All Saints CofE Primary) and other schools from across the Wharfe Valley & Bradford area.*
- *Exploring future links with the 'Ilkley Thingery' and the Manor House.*

After Easter we will be launching a significant marketing campaign in the local community and the wider Diocese to raise awareness of our new buildings and facilities. This will include professionally produced posters and pamphlets, a social media campaign and an 'open weekend' for anyone to see our new facilities.

c. We have invested in our AV equipment and online ministry

During the Covid lockdowns the ability to connect and worship together as a church family online was invaluable to our ongoing fellowship. Since we returned to 'in-person' church, the online provision continues to be a key part of our mission.



- *We often get up to 20 live viewers of our services on our YouTube channel with up to 40 people joining us online.*
- *We often get 100 'views' of services in the following weeks.*
- *The first 'visit' to All Saints for many is usually online.*
- *For church family who are away, unwell or housebound, watching online is vital for them to continue to be connected.*
- *Local residential care homes show our 10.15am Sunday service in their main lounges.*
- *At funerals and weddings, the ability to livestream the service is a greatly appreciated way for elderly or distant friend/relatives to be included.*
- *Our services are broadcast on Sunday across the local area on Drystone Radio (<https://drystoneradio.com/>) to a potential audience of 100,000 listeners.*

3. How does All Saints intend to use its financial resources to achieve its mission priorities in the next few years?

By investing in our everyday mission & ministry

On the morning of my interview for the Vicar's post at All Saints, I read 2 Kings 3:16-17, where God says the following;

"Make this valley full of ditches. 'You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you and your animals may drink.'"

You can discover more about the context of these verses in the 4th of my 'Foundations Talks' from 2021 at <https://bit.ly/ASI-F4>. But essentially God's people were facing a 'life & death' situation because they had run out of water in the middle of the desert!

In their desperation they turned to God for help and He tells them to do something that doesn't make any sense - to dig ditches in the desert! Digging holes in the sandy rocky ground was back breaking work which would make them thirstier and more desperate! And the result of their efforts would not be that they would find water, but that they would just have holes in ground but still be thirsty! The water they so badly needed would come by trusting an impossible promise from God - that the parched, lifeless desert would become a reservoir overflowing with enough water for everyone. They would need to have 100% confidence in God's trustworthiness!!

So they dug the holes and a totally unsurprising thing happened - God kept His promise! The water flowed, their ditches in the desert were filled to bursting and their thirst and desperation disappeared. It was then that they understood how important trusting God's promise was, because without the ditches, the water would have flowed away and they would still be thirsty and desperate!

On that day in April 2018, and still today, I've believed that what they experienced is a picture of our everyday mission and ministry at All Saints. In the midst of what can seem like a spiritually lifeless 'desert' we need to faithfully 'dig ditches' where we are and wait for God to fill them with His presence and power by His Spirit.

In the next year as a church we will (amongst many other things) be...

- *Exploring how we can intentionally prioritise outreach to families with school-aged children in our regular activities.*
 - *Encouraging the church family, individually, or in a small group, to do the 'Practicing The Way' course, as a means to be more intentional about growing and deepening their faith in Jesus in their everyday life.*
 - *Enabling people to use their individual gifts and abilities to serve the church family through training, equipping and creating opportunities for service.*
 - *Supporting other churches in their mission & ministry (i.e. my being the Area Dean & Fiona Schneider supporting St. James, Silsden.)*
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But 'digging ditches' needs resources to make it happen. That's why the main focus of Stewardship Sunday is to invite the All Saints church family to prayerfully reflect on their regular financial giving to All Saints.

Over 90% of our annual income is directly linked to the regular giving of the church family which means that without your generous and sacrificial financial support we can't dig those ditches that are essential to our everyday mission and ministry.

Therefore if All Saints is your church family, here is a list of 'Vicar's Exhortations' (N.B. to exhort someone is to try very hard to persuade somebody to do something!)

- ✓ *If you don't financially support All Saints, can I exhort you to begin to do so?*
- ✓ *If you do financially support All Saints, but not regularly, can I exhort you to give in a regular and planned way?*
- ✓ *If you give regularly to All Saints but not via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), can I exhort you to consider doing so? (Information about PGS is found below.)*
- ✓ *If you haven't already done, can I exhort you to consider leaving a legacy to All Saints in your will? (More information about this can be found below.)*
- ✓ *However you give to financially support All Saints, can I ask you prayerfully reflect on whether you can increase it?*

I referred earlier to a definition of Christian stewardship that defined it as "*financial giving to resource a spiritual vision to produce a fruitful harvest for the Gospel*". Having read this letter, if you believe that the mission priorities we have at All Saints are the right ones to produce fruitfulness for the Gospel, then can I ask you to put that belief into action by investing in that vision and leadership?

Please read this letter through carefully, please prayerfully consider your answer and if you have any questions or comments, please get in touch.

Thanks again for all your encouragement and support.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a horizontal line that starts under the 'M' and ends under the 'e', with a small gap in the middle.

Revd. Mike Coe
Vicar: All Saints, Ilkley

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

PGS is a way of giving to All Saints which is of great benefit to both you as the giver and to us. Launched across the Diocese in January 2020, the PGS is an established planned giving scheme for churches proven to boost levels of parish income whilst also offering many other benefits for parishes and givers alike.



The PGS is recommended by the national Church as the preferred way of receiving planned giving for parishes.

You can set up a regular Direct Debit to All Saints, Ilkley

1. *Via the PGS website – <https://bit.ly/PGS-ASI>
(A 'how-to' guide is at <https://bit.ly/PGS-NEW>).*
2. *Via the PGS telephone service on 0333 002 1271, Monday-Friday, 9am - 5pm.*
3. *Via a paper form: available from the Church Office.*

The PGS has significant benefits for all those involved.

A. It benefits you as a giver because you have....

- *A simple method for regular financial support.*
- *Secure control of how much & how regularly you give.*
- *An option to increase giving annually with inflation.*
- *The Direct Debit Guarantee Scheme.*
- *The ability to have Gift Aid at 25% added to your gift.*

B. It benefits All Saints because we have

- *Stable & planned giving rather than 'static' giving.*
- *An efficient method of reclaiming Gift Aid as PGS does all the time-consuming administration for it.*
- *Protection against inflation as givers have the opportunity to increase their giving annually.*
- *Improved cash flow as donations & Gift Aid are transferred into our bank account by PGS at the same time each month.*

C. It benefits the PCC Treasurer because of...

- *Reduced administration/paperwork leads to a significant time saving for them.*

There are other ways to give regularly to All Saints (please ask for more information about them) but we are encouraging people to change or begin their regular giving to All Saints via the PGS. Many church family members (including the Vicar) already use PGS and it has made their financial support much easier and more stream-lined.

We are very enthusiastic about the benefits of the PGS, and we really hope you'll seriously consider using it. If you have any questions about PGS, or you need any support setting it up, please contact either

Peter Crossley (PCC Treasurer) –
treasurer@allsaintsilkley.org or

Geri Huang-Faulkner (Church Administrator) -
office@allsaintsilkley.org

If you would prefer not to use the PGS and would like to give to All Saints in a different way;

- ✓ *By Standing Order,*
- ✓ *By a direct bank transfer,*
- ✓ *By a one-off donation,*
- ✓ *By cheque.*

Please contact either Peter or Geri via the contact details above.
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