

To contribute **Please Pray**



It's important to give generously even when money is tight because it demonstrates:-

- we know where our money comes from (James 1 v 17)
- we understand what's really important in life, our real priorities
- we trust God and his promises

It's not the size of the giving that matters; it's what it reveals about us and our dependence on him that matters to God.



ST GEORGE'S WILTON **Christian Giving** Scheme 2023

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver". 2 Corinthians 9:7



The Vision

The vision at St George's Church, Wilton is to grow in spirit and to grow in number. God is calling us on an adventure of faith to love him more deeply and to overflow with love for our neighbours in this community. Our tiny corner of Somerset is growing rapidly, attracting new people week by week thrilled with the heart for the gospel of Jesus spreading across the town. Over the next 12 months, God is stirring up new plans, gospel projects and abundant life here.

The Background

The Christian story is one of lavish grace. Even when humans were most opposed to God's plans, he poured himself out, so that anyone can receive the invitation into God's people. So, worship and ministry will always be free to access. There are no paywalls, entry tickets or subscription levels to be passed. Hallelujah! Yet, since the ministry of Jesus there has always been a cost to providing this ministry. In the gospels, we read of how the work of Jesus and the disciples were supported by three women, Mary, Joanna and Susannah who 'provided for them out of their means'. In order to grow in spirit and number, in order to be a blessing to this community, St George's relies on the support of people that 'provide from their own means'. God gives graciously and calls his people to give sacrificially. Thank you to everyone who supports the ministry.

The Cost

Where does the money all go? As part of the Church of England, St George's contributes to the common fund of the Diocese of Bath and Wells. The common fund pays for the vicar, housing, pension, all of the structures of the diocese including safeguarding, human resources, training new vicars plus the leadership including Bishops and Archdeacons. By having a common fund, the Church of England is able to offer ministry in places that otherwise would not be able to afford it. This means the gospel is preached throughout the county in rich and poor places!

To try and even out the costs across the whole of Somerset, each parish is asked for a 'parish share' which is calculated on the size of the congregation and the type of area you live in. For the parish of Wilton and Sherford, we are asked to contribute **£83,767** per year (that is **£1,610** per week).

Our local costs for the ministry at St Georges are the ongoing maintenance of our buildings, parish administrator, worship director, office costs, churchyard maintenance. In total, these normally cost over **£70,000** per year.

Broken down on a weekly basis, St George's needs to raise around **£3000** per week to maintain our ministry. For members of St Georges, these bills are our collective responsibility to manage. Thank you to everyone who cheerfully contributes time, effort and money.

To be a Blessing

The Christian life is not a to-do list of obligations; Jesus calls his people to an abundant life and to share that abundant life with our neighbours. Consequently, we don't just want to 'fulfil our obligations' but to be a blessing. 2022 was a fantastical year of growth and energy. Through the Cosy café we reached out to the community, developed housegroups, built a new service, established streaming, began Sunday based youth and childrens work, sent off an ordinand to train for the ministry. In the year ahead, there is much more to enjoy including the launch of the community fridge, prayer room and TukTuk café.

St Georges has grown wonderfully! What will God do amongst us next? We need your support to facilitate this blessing to God's people. So here are some simple steps:

Pray:

- Begin with thanking God for all the gifts you've received.
- How might God want to use those gifts?
- Decide how much of your income you want to give back to God's work. The historic pattern of tithing suggested 10%, use this as a guide.
- Pray for wisdom in how to manage your money – how much to the work of St Georges – how much to other charities?

Act

- If you have started coming to St George's regularly, or have been coming for some time but haven't yet done so, may I encourage you to **join our committed Christian Giving scheme** by completing a pledge form and possibly a standing order form.
- If you pay income tax, and have not already done so, please consider **Gift Aiding your giving**.
- If after praying about it, you would like to change the amount you are already giving to St George's, you will need to fill out a **new pledgeform** and, if appropriate a new standing order form.
- If you are putting your affairs in order and are considering making a will or revising an existing one, would you like to remember **St George's in your will?** There is a St George's leaflet on legacies; if you would like one, just ask.