

# our vision

## In the coming year we plan to:

- Welcome a new curate to continue our outreach into our local community
- Become a bronze award eco church and aspire to the silver award
- Expand our children's activities to include Messy Church and a holiday club
- Continue to be a church that is welcoming, inclusive and joyful
- Continue fundraising for our new Parish Centre

## To fulfil this vision,

### each month we spend:

- £9,000 on our share of clergy costs: stipend, housing, training etc
- £3,500 on our building: insurance, heat, light, staff costs, services
- £1,400 on ministry plans for this year

### each month we currently receive:

- £9,800 from regular congregational giving, including Gift Aid
- £600 from other donations
- £500 from fees: weddings, funerals etc
- £900 from the hall, our fundraising and other income streams

*Thank you for helping  
to make this happen!*

# what can we do to help?

## How do we decide how much to give?

There is no one, easy answer for everyone. We are called to love God and our neighbour and our giving is an expression of that love.

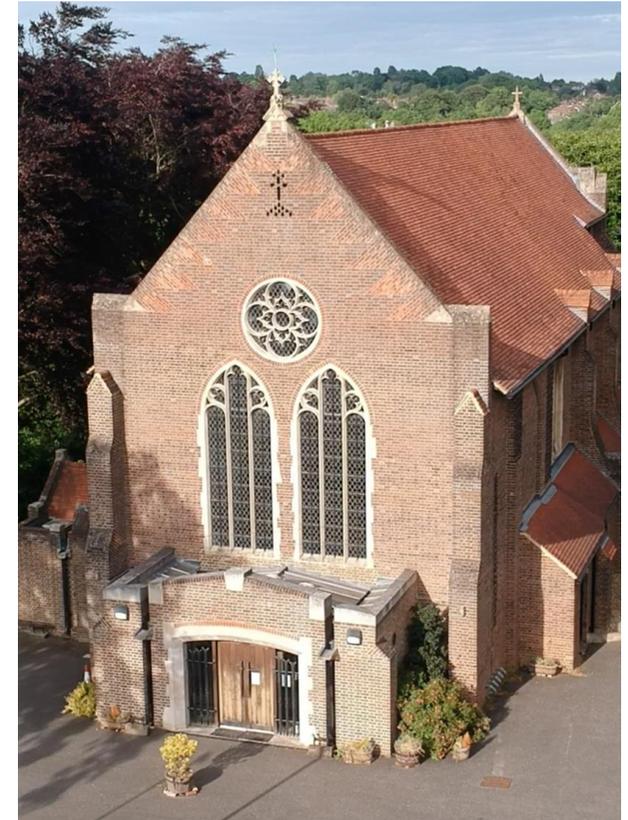
This leaflet gives some clear guidance and there are very practical things we can do:

- ✦ **increase** our giving to meet our church's needs
- ✦ **join** the Planned Giving Scheme
- ✦ **optimise** our giving using Gift Aid if we pay tax
- ✦ **make a legacy gift** when we plan for the future of those we love and care for
- ✦ **give proportionately** – a percentage of our income to fund ministry
- ✦ **consider making a separate gift** for our new Parish Centre

But at the end of the day how much to give is a thoughtful, prayerful decision only you can make. Love is generous, love is kind and love is selfless - we see that in all God gives to us; how will we respond?



# St John's Church Harpenden



my church  
**my challenge**  
my choice

# Giving in Grace

# our church

Our giving sustains our church **building**, a sacred place dedicated to worship, prayer and witness.

Our giving sustains our **clergy**, here and across our diocese and helps train new clergy.

Our giving sustains our **ministry**, measured by every:

- ✚ sick person visited
- ✚ confirmation course run
- ✚ school assembly taken
- ✚ bereaved family comforted
- ✚ baptism celebrated
- ✚ sermon preached
- ✚ Eucharist celebrated
- ✚ person shown the love of Christ through our care, comfort and compassion

Our giving sustains **mission** both here in the UK and overseas for people we may never meet but to whom we are able to give practical support through our ministry of giving.

*This ministry  
not only supplies  
the needs of the saints  
but overflows  
with many thanksgivings to God*  
**2 Cor 9:12**

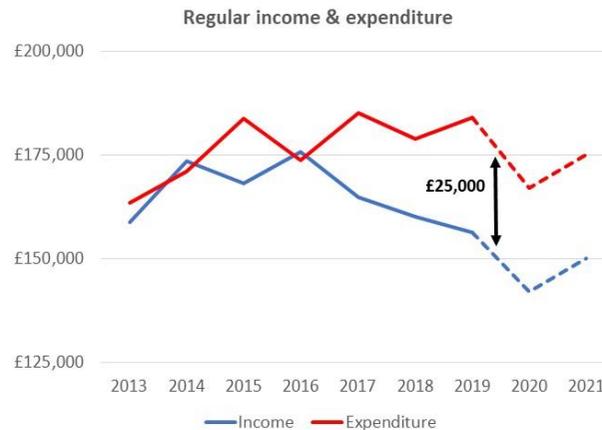
# our challenge

To cultivate what St Paul calls the **grace of giving** we need to think carefully about all we receive from God and prayerfully review our giving.

Our church needs £14,000 per month to sustain our building and clergy, our ministry and mission.

**For many years, our expenditure has been exceeding our income, with deficits in six of the last eight years.**

To bridge our income gap and for our ministry to flourish we need the **grace of giving**.



*But just as you excel in everything  
...see that you also excel in this  
grace of giving 2 Cor 8:7*

# our choices

102 members of St John's make regular planned donations – whether small or large, weekly, monthly or annually. Every little helps

*Is it time to join our planned givers?*

**The Parish Giving Scheme** is an efficient way to make a regular payment to St John's - see the separate leaflet for more details

*Is it time to review the way you give?*

Giving to God's work through the church should be a priority

*Is it time to give a little more?*

The bible teaches us to give proportionately and the Church of England suggests 5% of take home pay

*Is it time to give a percentage of what we receive?*

Proportionate giving table				
Monthly income	Giving (£)			
	1%	3%	5%	10%
£750	£8	£23	£38	£75
£1500	£15	£45	£75	£150
£2500	£25	£75	£125	£250
£3500	£35	£105	£175	£350

*This is a ministry for everyone –  
'each according to your means'*

**2 Cor 8:11**