

Sacrifice

STEWARDSHIP
2023



Dear Friends,

'The only constant in life is change'. So said a Greek philosopher centuries ago, Heraclitus of Ephesus. Looking back at the last year we might be tempted to agree with him. So much is changing! On 8th September Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II died; we now have

our third Prime Minister of the year; in February Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine, unleashing suffering on millions in Europe. Emerging from a global pandemic, the world is facing complex, long-term economic challenges that will impact us all.

Writing to the young church in Ephesus, Paul reminds them of one great constant: ***'God placed everything under Christ's feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church'*** (Ephesians 1:22). While everything around us might seem to change, the one unchanging reality is the rule of the ascended Christ. Jesus of Nazareth is Head over everything. And what does He do with the authority that He has? How does He direct things from His throne? Does history even have a purpose or direction?

Amazingly, Paul says, Christ is ***'Head over everything for the church'***! It may be hard to recognise sometimes, but Christ directs the affairs of this world entirely for the sake of His precious church.

This grand truth has to take root locally, of course. In line with our vision to **Reach, Build and Send** the PCC approved ten targets for All Saints for 2022-23. Please do take time to read about these on the next page.

To reach these goals will require each one of us to play our part: in praying, serving and giving.

All can pray. Most can serve. But what about giving?

In the months ahead many among us may face financial hardship. Some may not be in a position to give as much as they would have liked. Others will be able to give more. But in God's eyes the value of the gift is not in the sum given, but in the cost to the giver – the **Sacrifice**.

There were once two women. We meet them in Mark, chapters 12 and 14. We don't know much about them, not even their names. But what they did has gone down in history. One woman, out of great poverty, put into the Temple treasury two small copper coins – they represented her entire livelihood. The other anointed Jesus' head with perfume worth more than a year's wages. And Jesus commended them both. The sums given were irrelevant. To Christ, the value of a gift is not the amount given, but the cost to the giver – the **Sacrifice**.

To be a Christian is to be a follower of Jesus – the One who gave up His very life in sacrifice to save us. Financial giving is only one part of how we lay our lives down to follow Christ, but it is an important part.

As a church we are not immune to the financial pressures. The Finance Committee has worked hard to ensure that we are good stewards of the sacrificial giving of church family. We are very grateful to the Finance team for their tremendous hard work on our behalf.

If you have any questions regarding the finance elements of the budget please contact our treasurer, Rob Kingdom, using the details on the following page. There you will also find below links to number of resources, including a video about our partnership, a Bible study on giving, as well as some key dates in our Stewardship season. There are also documents which outlines our financial situation as we seek to respond to the opportunities God has given us in the year ahead.

Will you please pray, and consider how you can partner financially in the year ahead?

Yours in Christ,

Steve Nichols
Vicar

In line with our vision to *Reach, Build and Send*, the PCC approved ten targets for All Saints for 2022-23.

Our aims are that we

- 1. Are prayerfully dependent** in all we do. An expression of this is the refresh of our church prayer meeting on the first Wednesday of each month. Please put this in your diary and come to pray.
- 2. Grow in generosity**, broadening our giving base rather than relying on the giving of a few. Everything we do as a church depends on the giving of the church family. Are you able to start giving even just a small amount each month to support the ministry?
- 3. Realise the ASPIRE vision**, using our buildings more to connect with the village and local area. The appointment of a full-time Facilities Manager has been an important step. While major repairs are needed on the Tiger building, work continues in exploring how we can better use it to serve the village for the sake of the gospel.
- 4. Support our senior members.** The pandemic highlighted the vulnerability and loneliness of many senior members of our village. We commit to recruiting a new Seniors' Pastor as well as to supporting Tiger@Ten and its off-shoot ministries in order to reach out to our growing community of senior folk.
- 5. Are confident in faith.** It can be hard, but we want to see every member of the church equipped, trained, confident and inspired to talk to others about Christ on their 'frontline'. In addition we want all our services and activities to be places where it's normal to invite friends to join us.
- 6. Connect with a new community**, as increasing numbers move into the village and local area.
- 7. Help people move from fringe to core** – seeing newcomers welcomed, integrated and committed to the Lord Jesus and His church here in Lindfield. It starts with simply crossing the room on a Sunday to greet those we haven't yet met.
- 8. Develop our partnerships with local schools**, particularly those in the village, through assemblies and services, holiday clubs, children's choir, etc. We are committed to appointing a Youth Pastor this year as a crucial part of our ministry to children and young people both within All Saints and beyond.
- 9. Develop our digital outreach** by building on the lessons learned over the last two years.
- 10. Strengthen our ministry among 18-25s.** At present we provide little direct ministry for this age group, although we are seeing encouraging signs of growth.

Resources



Video

A message from Steve Nichols about our 2023 Stewardship.

click to play



Bible Study

A study on giving to use in Connect Groups or by couples and individuals.

click to play



Finance Report

Outlining our financial situation as we seek to respond.

Summary

Full Version

dates

Sunday 20th November 2022 Stewardship Sunday

When we think as a church family about our calling to give generously.

Sunday 27th November 2022 Dedication Sunday

When we present our gifts and pledges to the Lord.

contact

If you have any questions regarding the finance elements of the budget please contact our Treasurer **Rob Kingdom**.

Email **rkingdom36@gmail.com**

Phone **07714 226700**