

Stewardship 2020-2022

Good morning everyone, and I hope you are well and managing to cope with this unusual time we find ourselves. It has been wonderful to hear of the support each of us is giving to those around us. I was recently told by an elderly friend of mine, that she values it when the Vicar calls her, but it means even more when a member of the congregation calls her. This shows that it is important for not only Fr Jonathan to speak with us, but also us to speak with each other.

One of the reasons I am here speaking to you today, is as a fellow member of the congregation of St Peter's Anglican Church Brighton Beach. Who can believe it was two years ago that I was doing exactly as I am now – talking to you about the History, current times and future of St Peter's as we embark on our next Stewardship Campaign.

This year so many unusual circumstances around the world have impacted so many of us locally. We at St Peter's are certainly not exempt from some of the negative impacts of COVID – in fact, need I say the financial situation from our regular church attendance and other sources – rent of the hall and our Spring Fayre to name but two, is not at a level that will allow us to continue to uphold all that is dear to us within our community.

When I spoke to you two years ago, during our last Stewardship campaign, I reminded you of the historical journey which St Peter's had taken and the strong minded women and men who had the foresight to stand up and work together to make the dream of our own parish a reality.

Now, looking past COVID, I can't help but think about the parishioners who survived the Spanish Flu approx. 100 years ago and wonder how they managed to maintain such a splendid building and continue to grow spiritually among each other with no technology. For us this year, we have indeed been fortunate as grants we have received have been used to update our technology to allow us to stream services – something unheard of during the Spanish Flu. Looking through some of our archives which include our Seat Rents for 1922, 129 people were recorded from the previous years over 52 families, to permanently rent a pew at St Peter's. It would appear that the number that financially returned in 1923 had reduced 81 people over 32 families. I ask myself, what happened to the 20 families that no longer paid Seat Rents. Financially could they no longer

afford it, or had they passed away from the flu, or perhaps moved away. Who knows what reasons? We don't want to be in the situation where we don't have a congregation, a wonderful place to worship together and grounds to enjoy. Hence the reason I am today talking to you about our options for the future.

We all know there will not be the opportunity for a Spring Fayre this year.

We all enjoy the amazing musical program which has been introduced for our pleasure and to enhance our services this year. We are all aware our Hope in the Future Campaign which will encourage and assist in the growth and maintenance of St Peter's. We are all well aware of the deficit in funds from this year and as such I am asking you to consider your financial commitment to St Peter's for the period of 2021 – 2022.

You will receive a letter detailing your options which includes some Frequently asked Questions. The second page of the letter allows you some options for detailing your financial contribution.

If you regularly pledge an amount through direct credit or envelopes, can I implore you to review this amount to see if you are in financial position to increase this contribution by 10% per annum or more.

Perhaps, like me, you are grateful that we are not trying to organise a Spring Fayre, to have it cancelled at the last minute. Would you consider donating the same amount as you would have donated to campaign for building works this year, which has been canceled, in order to cover the cost of the spring fair cancelation, or the amount you may have spent on ingredients, products on the day, as a one off payment? Perhaps you are concerned about the upkeep of the building and would like to make a one off contribution to the building works?

Would you prefer to make a contribution to our Music Programme? Financial beneficiaries to this programme are always welcome.

Perhaps you are considering your options with the Hope in our Future Campaign.

Whatever you feel you would like to be involved in, perhaps one or two areas, perhaps more. We would like to pass on our gratitude to you as you assist in allowing St Peter's to flourish for the next few years and beyond.

May I also take this opportunity to remind you that the St Peter's Plum Puddings are an excellent chance for you to assist in the fundraising and help yourself with your Christmas preparations – perhaps a gift for a friend.

If you have any questions about how to make your donations, by cheque, direct credit or other methods, please do not hesitate to contact John Braddon. For all other queries on Stewardship, please do not hesitate to contact me, Christine or John.

Thanking you for your support.