

## Stewardship St Peter's Ealing

### 1 Prayer

Lord of all, in a world marked by pain and suffering, yet saved by your intensity of giving, make us thankful for our good fortune, protect us from hardness of heart and teach us to respond with gratitude and generosity to others; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.  
(Anglican Stewardship Association)

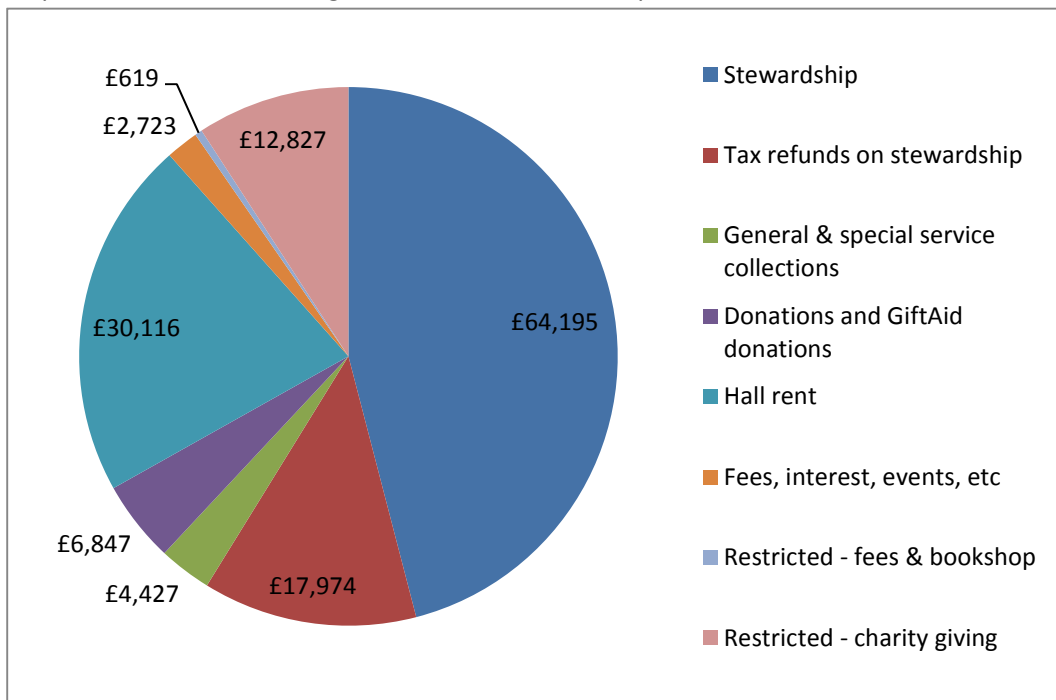
### 2 Bible passages – if you cut out all the references to money, you'd be left with a very “holey” Bible

*Deuteronomy 16:10 – Then you shall keep the festival of weeks [feast of harvest] to the Lord your God, contributing a freewill-offering in proportion to the blessing that you have received from the Lord your God.*

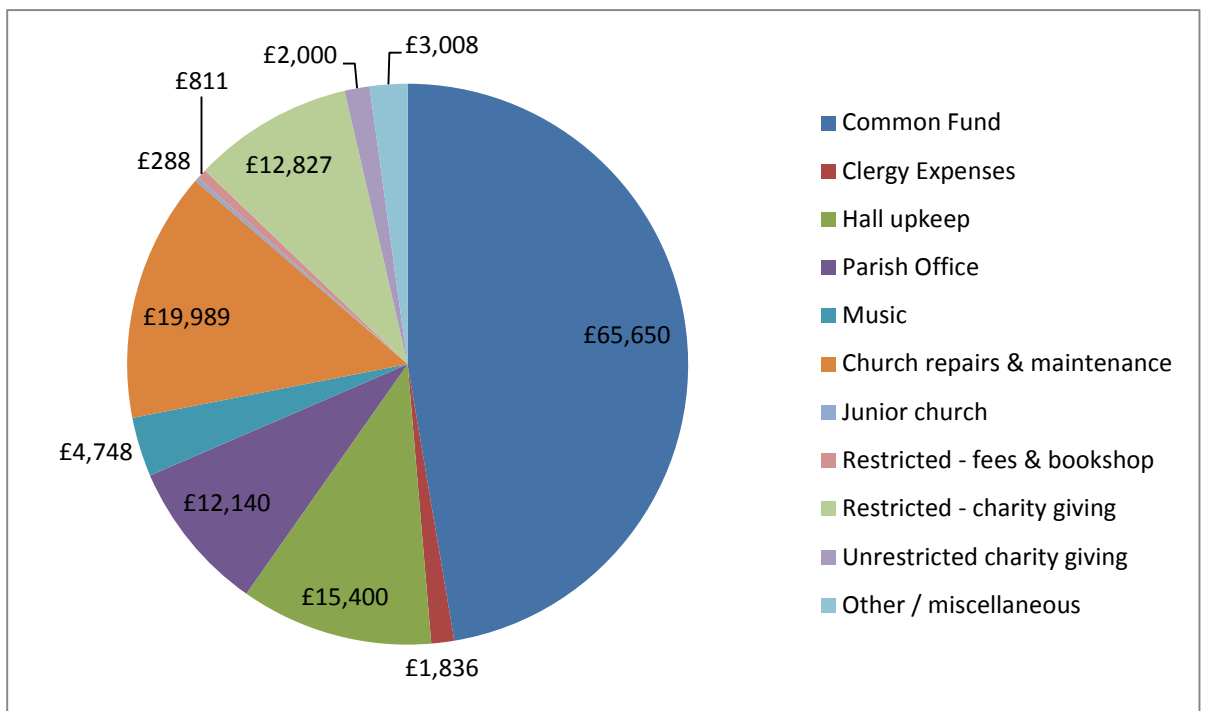
*2 Corinthians 8:1-4 – We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints ...*

*2 Corinthians 9:6-8 – The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also give sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.*

3 Pie chart of 2010 income  
emphasise and focus on largest element - Stewardship



4 Pie chart of 2010 expenditure  
emphasise and focus on largest element – Common Fund



PCC directs expenditure – if you want to influence this, please join the PCC!

- 5 What is Common Fund?  
 one third pays the parish priest  
 one third contributes to pension and provides a house  
 one third trains new clergy, supports parishes generally, helps schools & the wider church

over 400 parishes in Diocese of London  
 of these, almost 200 parishes are in areas classified as “deprived”  
 in some of these the church is one of the few forces for good still serving the community

- 6 What is Stewardship?  
 Through our stewardship scheme, people commit to giving a regular amount to the church, weekly, monthly, quarterly, or however frequently you wish.  
 It really does help to have that commitment so that parish can commit to the diocese and the diocese can commit to clergy numbers and other costs in the coming year.

- 7 Figures – Diocesan average costs for a parish with one cleric living in a diocesan house  
 That’s St Peter’s. Margaret & Keith are non stipendiary (as is Susan) and live in our own houses. We are simply volunteers – like so many others who contribute so much to St Peter’s. And Keith’s wife Judith is employed by West London YMCA which receives no funding from the Diocese of London – many parishes support West London YMCA directly, but not from Diocesan funds taken through Common Fund.

£	London Diocese average cost for a parish	St Peter’s contribution to Common Fund	St Peter’s net contribution to Common Fund	St Peter’s net contribution as % of average cost
2009	62,590	64,133	1,543	2.5%
2010	64,256	65,650	1,394	2.2%
2011	66,106	67,500	1,394	2.1%
2012	67,889	?	?	

- 8 Figures – St Peter’s contribution to Common Fund v Stewardship

£’000	St Peter’s contribution to Common Fund	St Peter’s Stewardship before GiftAid refund
2009	64	63 actual
2010	66	64 actual
2011	68	67 budget
2012	?	?

- 9 The question marks reflect uncertainty. This uncertainty comes about through some people moving away, and also through the fact that the employment status of some people in the congregation has changed – maybe through retirement, maybe through loss of a job. Our forecast for Stewardship, based on the current actual is £58,000. We need £68,000 to match the Common Fund. So we need to increase Stewardship by £10,000 or £800 per

month.

If St Peter's doesn't contribute the cost of an average parish, then the diocese will have to plan some cuts. Nobody in the diocese has suggested that any cuts to clergy numbers would impact directly on St Peter's – the cuts would be elsewhere in the diocese, possibly in the parishes that most need support.

Question – how would we cope with uncertainty if we were at the Diocese? And if we had to make cuts where would we make them?

- 10 But even without the current changes, these tables tell us something about stewardship at St Peter's, and how it has changed since 2007 (or hasn't changed very much):

Participation in stewardship	2011	2007
Family units on electoral roll	89	93
<b>Family units involved in stewardship</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>71</b>

Distribution	2011	2007
Giving up to £10 per month	3	6
Giving £10 - £19 per month	6	5
Giving £20 - £29 per month	15	10
Giving £30 - £49 per month	17	18
Giving £50 - £99 per month	20	19
Giving £100 - £199 per month	6	7
Giving over £200 per month	6	6

Why & what should we give?

Why should we give?

And reasons in the verses from 2 Corinthians -

All good things come from God

God loves a cheerful giver

It's a joy to give

To help others

What should we give?

Deuteronomy tells us we should give in proportion to what we have.

Many here at St Peter's already give generously – both to St Peter's and to other charities; both in money and in time and service. There's always a good response to special appeals, even special appeals that keep coming round each year like Christian Aid week, and so far for the church roof donations total £17,940 (out of £180,000 raised so far - over three quarters of this coming from English Heritage).

The General Synod of the Church of England “challenges church members to assess annually their financial giving as a proportion of income, and to take as an initial target 5% of after-tax income to and through the church, and a similar amount to other work that helps to build God's kingdom in times of economic stringency as well as of plenty, in response to the lavish generosity of God to us in Christ.”

5% to and through the church plus a similar amount to other work that helps build God's kingdom. 5% of after tax income.

- 11 Our electoral roll is 139. If everybody on that roll had an income equal to the national minimum wage – we know they don't; many earn a lot more; some have little or no income; but this calculation will give us an idea of what the challenge before us.

If everybody on our electoral roll had an income of the national minimum wage, and gave through stewardship 5% of after tax income, we'd have £75k stewardship income.

I'm calculating on the national minimum wage of £5.73 per hour – not the London living wage. And all this is before the church can recover any of the tax paid through GiftAid.

If everyone on our electoral roll gave 5% of after tax national minimum wage income we'd have stewardship income of £75k.