

A letter from the St James's Piccadilly Giving Team

Dear SJP Community,

Rooted in God's earth, we envision a just society and a creative, open-hearted church

At St James we are planning our vision and mission which will take us through the next 3 years and beyond as the Wren Project comes into being. In the planned giving group we have reviewed our vision. We have renamed ourselves the Giving Team which better describes this role.

This is who we are:



Hannah



Katherine



Debbie



Tom



Claire



David

How do we best serve you, and the vision of St. James's, as we partner with you in all aspects of giving to grow and deepen our eucharistic community? What is a Christ-shaped invitation where we help each other to discern our response to a generous God – with our time, gifts, expertise, money? We are working alongside the new Director of Development, Brian Willetts, as we deepen relationships between us and also with our neighbours. From the autumn, there will be an exciting new campaign called 'The Heart of St James's' which is our way of letting our neighbours know who we are and how they could be part of the future here. The Giving Team is a core part of this as we pray and discern together.

Come and find us – we want to hear from YOU.....

On Sunday 10th October, you will find us in the outside area of Café Nero after the 11.00 service. Please come and talk to us, tell us what you think, ask questions, bring suggestions, comments we would like to get to know you better and find out what you think and feel about money and giving as part of our life of faith.

.... And tell you about why we are here and what we do

The vision for St James's Piccadilly is the foundation for our Church mission and action. This defines the budget that is set each year. It includes everything from keeping the doors open each day, to sharing the eucharist, to the development plans Lucy talked about earlier in the year. Our role is to help each other as a community raise £161k this year and to increase our regular giving. The need is still here.

Although our focus is on money, we are looking at all forms of giving as our collective and individual contribution to the mission of St. James's Church. This can't happen without you. We are also sensitive to the fact that many work full time; are living and giving and working in other parts of London; that many are tired and stretched by coronavirus – so we work together with care and compassion to explore our community life.

See further on for how we can begin to understand this as the spirituality of fundraising, an expression of our life together and our share in the mission and action plan.

Finance updates

One of the things that many of you have said to us in the past is that you would like to be kept regularly updated about the current financial position.

We will put regular /monthly updates about the latest financial position in the newsletters

Have lots of fun and creativity for all 3-31 October

Through October eco church are planning a 'Triumph of Delights' month so we are joining in with our own camino journey heading from harvest towards COP26. We want to raise £2k for FEAST and Sunday Breakfast by having a sponsored four-week adventure which can be walked, run, cycled, swum, knitted or contemplated together. No idea too crazy! Details will follow in September's newsletters – watch out for them! This is also a great opportunity to reconnect, to get to know each other better and to talk to friends and family about what we do at St James's. Raise 50p or £50 – it all counts.

Let's talk/think/pray about Bible, God and money -

money – how we think and feel about it is incredibly wide and varied, rooted in our upbringing, relationships, life events, circumstance, beliefs. We are offering an invitation to explore together about giving, why give, how much, what does it mean. And what does the Bible say about it too?!

November – February

We are planning a series of events centred around 'the spirituality of Fundraising' by Henri Nouwen. Henri was a Dutch Catholic priest and theologian who gave a number of talks arising from the change in his experiences about asking for money, and the journey he made in coming to understand fundraising as relationship, not transaction. We are asked to move away from seeing money as a necessary evil that makes us feel awkward and embarrassed, rather to view giving, whether of money, time or gifts, as an invitation to build a community together, invited into the vision of St. James's; and so to deepen our relationship with each other and God.

Outline plan – more information to follow!

- 21st November: guest speaker on the spirituality of fundraising
 - Lunch together – tell our stories, discuss the talk
- Advent 2021: A pilot group to study Spirituality of Fundraising workbook – it's short, about one session a week for 4 weeks! We need some enthusiastic companions to help us – please join and let us know by emailing us at plannedgiving@sjp.org.uk; the incentive is we'll eat as we study together
- February 2021 – invitation to church wide exploring Spirituality of Fundraising in Sunday teaching; storytelling, study the book, find out what the bible says; hear from each other – all questions, views welcome
- End February (Sunday 27th) – just before Lent come together celebration lunch for us as community, celebrating giving and receiving; an invitation to look at practical ways of giving and take some actions.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this. We do look forward to seeing you, hearing from you, and together being part of the future God invites us into at St James's.