

From the Stewardship committee

Dear friends

Stewardship covers **time**, **talents** and **money**. We thank you most sincerely for your giving of any or all of these – an act of thanksgiving to God - during 2019.

You may not be a regular churchgoer but if you or anyone else who reads this magazine can offer **time** it would be much appreciated. For example maybe you can type, or have computer skills, or are a dab hand with a vacuum cleaner, or can sing? If so let us know and we will put you to work!

You may already lead a busy life with no time; maybe you have a **talent** you can share? For example: Do you like history? – we need our guide-book updating. Can you make cakes? – they are always a good fund-raiser. Can you mend books? – we have hymnbooks that are in need of some tender loving care.

St. John's is not alone in suffering from a decline in its congregation. In all the "busy-ness" of modern life it is all-too easy for the time needed for regular devotion which may have been the norm years ago to get squeezed out - and the daily act of worship during school assembly is a thing of the past too. However we still live in a Christian country and the established church is still the place where many turn in times of trouble and where some still want to receive the rites of marriage, baptism and funerals as well as the "special occasions" like school and church Christmas carol services. All these cost **money** – money to pay the diocese (who in turn pay for the clergy), money to pay the organist, money to heat and light the church, money for repairs – money which we no longer have enough of. If we are to continue to be the church in this parish in all of the ways to which we have been accustomed (for example having a priest in sole care of the church and parish) we will need more money – money from you if you are a regular giver, money from you if you have benefitted from any of the rites, money from you if you value what the church stands for, money if you want the church to be there for you in your hour of need.

Please don't just read this and think it doesn't apply to you – it is your parish church as much as it is the regular churchgoers'. Take a practical step to help **now!**

Email or telephone the vicar – Fr. Michael Freeman - and tell him what you can offer in terms of your **time** and **talents** – his email is freeman.burton@googlemail.com and his phone number is 01283 568613

Review your giving in a thoughtful, prayerful way now and resolve to put more **money** in your envelope or, better still, your direct debit or standing order payment. If you haven't given before, but want to, please contact me for information on where to send your direct debit or to be sent a Gift Aid envelope for your offering. Use the email administrator@stjohnshorninglow.org.uk or phone 01283 813934 to contact me.

And, finally, please share this letter with your friends and neighbours, who may not be churchgoers but nevertheless may support the work we do.

With many thanks

Richard Dean