

Church of
St Thomas of Canterbury,
Fulham



Week One
OUR CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

*"...serve one another with whatever gift
each of you has received" - 1 Peter 4:10*

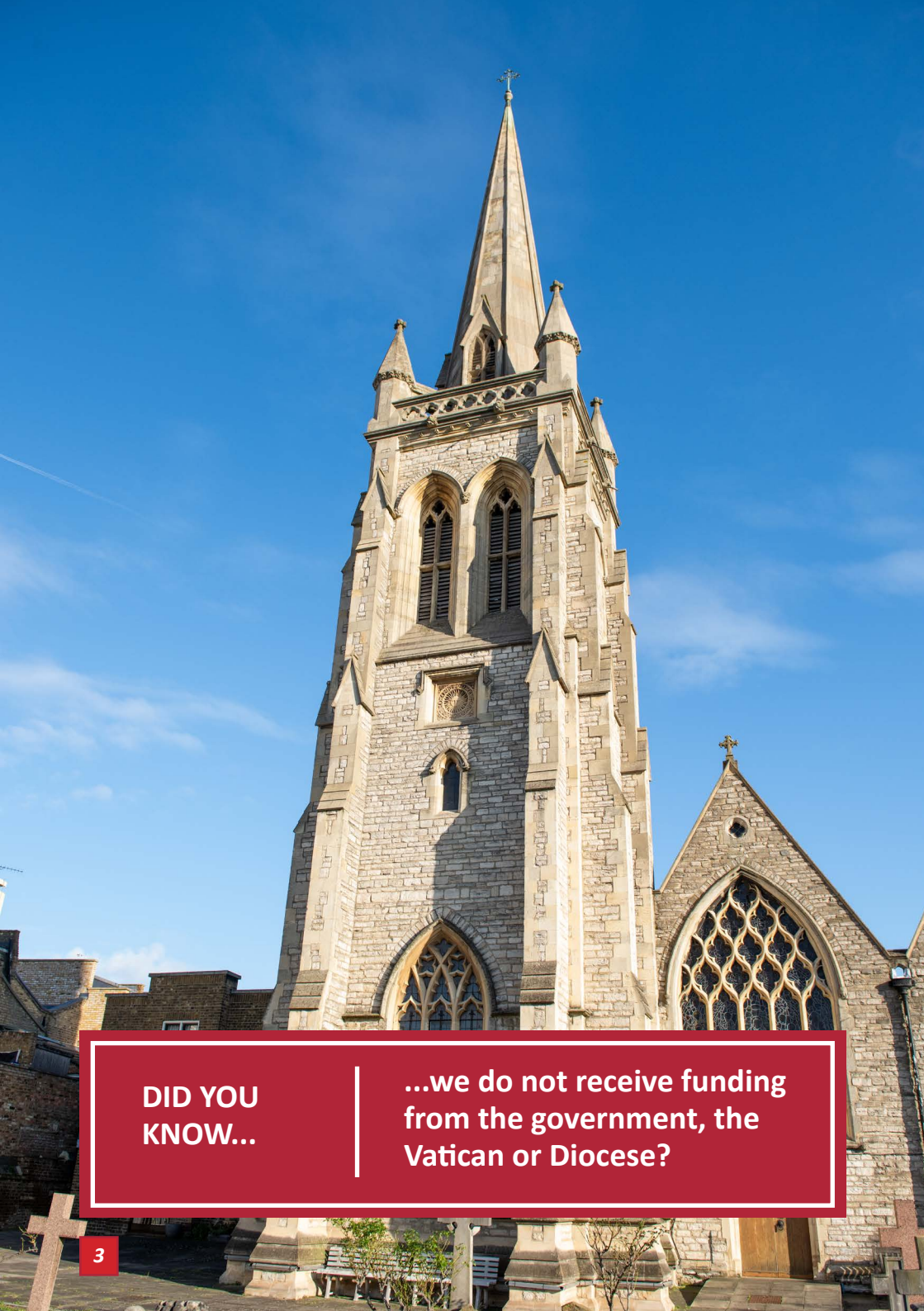
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every few years a parish, like any household, is wise to take stock of its resources. That's what this Planned Giving campaign is about. It is also what a Jubilee Year is for: to look at where we are and make plans for the future. We last fully reviewed our stewardship 15 years ago. Since then we've all faced the challenges of the pandemic, the cost of living crisis, and of so many changes which are always unsettling. Our parish has also faced unhelpful changes to rules that affect us as a charity and a listed building.

Is this about money? Well, I'll be very straightforward with you and say: Yes, that's a big part of it. It's about making the most of our money. Over the next two weeks you'll hear about various ways to support our parish. I ask that you listen with an open mind and consider what might be an option for you and your family.

Above all please pray, as nothing worthwhile is done without much prayer. This Jubilee Year calls us to be "Pilgrims of Hope." There's a lot to be hopeful about. We should be rightfully proud of 180 years of worship and service here, amid the changes and challenges of different times. The present time calls us to be prudent yet also have an imaginative approach to stewardship to do all we can to secure our place and to reflect on our gifts of time, talent, skill, as well as our nuts-and-bolts financial commitment to St Thomas's.

In the year I have been Parish Priest I've been struck by the love you have for our beautiful church, and it is marked by the way we try to keep it open as much as possible, which many other churches can't do. That points to deeper values of care for those around us, and love of God. I am also struck by your great generosity – not just financial, although that is always the case, but in the gift of self. There's lots we can do for the Lord Jesus. Please put all that in prayer in the coming weeks.



**DID YOU
KNOW...**

**...we do not receive funding
from the government, the
Vatican or Diocese?**

All we have comes from God, so we are His Stewards.

These gifts could be our faith, our friends and family, our skills or possessions.

Together, let's regularly reflect on our blessings and continue our faith through our giving, which will help us with our personal and spiritual growth.

By giving to God & to others, we grow & we can give by:

- ✓ Joyfully recalling that all we have comes from God
- ✓ Declaring our trust in His provision and care
- ✓ Sharing in the joy of giving and seeing the amazing fruits it brings

"...all things come from you, and of your own have we given you."

1 Chronicles 29:14

Our vision, for our parish...

As Christians we are all part of the Body of Christ, and we are each called to use our gifts, talents and treasures to glorify God in His Church. Looking to the future with hope and confidence, here are three priorities for the near and further future that will allow us to build up God's Kingdom here in Fulham...

To nurture our faith and life:

The heart of all we do is our worship. To grow in prayer and devotion, learn and know our faith, care for one another and witness to that faith are all strands we weave together to make a parish. To strengthen each strand and allow the talents and gifts of all to flourish means investing in human, technological and artistic assets.

Securing the long-term care of our church:

20 years ago, so much great work was done to renovate our unique church and heritage and this was done by a special campaign and a one-off selling of assets. More and more we need to protect the fruits of all that hard work and keep ahead of maintenance by wise investment and wise spending, building financial resilience. (Not forgetting the Cemetery and No.62 too!)

Opening the doors:

To be the Church means having a mission to make the Catholic Faith available to the different people who come into our buildings and live around us. To be able to be a beacon of Christ, to "wave the flag", to hold events, make community opportunities and sustain a mission takes planning and resources from a reliable income.



**DID YOU
KNOW...**

**...in 2024 it cost £262,117
just to keep our church doors
open?**

What does this Parish church mean to me?

As Stewards of this Parish, we are each responsible for the upkeep of our Parish, with a duty to pass it on to future generations in even better condition than when we received it.

What you decide to give is personal to you. Traditionally, communities of the faithful tithed, giving 10% of their income. Some like to break this down into '5 and 5':

- 5 hours of service to Parish ministry (sharing your time, talents and prayer)
- 5% of their income.

Whatever you decide, the amount should suit your circumstances and be meaningful to you. The table below can help you to work out suggested weekly giving percentages, that you can change or adjust at any time.

HOURLY WAGE	ANNUAL SALARY	2%	3%	5%
£13.85*	£25,200	£8	£12	£21
£15	£27,000	£11	£17	£28
£20	£36,000	£14	£21	£35
£25	£46,000	£18	£26	£44
£30	£55,000	£21	£32	£53
£38	£70,000	£27	£40	£67

*As of August 2025, the London Living Wage is calculated at £13.85 per hour

“Each one should give as much as he has decided on his own initiative, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
2 Corinthians 9:7

Please take this leaflet away with you

***If you have any questions,
please ask a volunteer after Mass or contact:***

Parish Priest: Rev James Neal

***Address: 60 Rylston Road, Fulham,
London, SW6 7HW***

Tel: 020 7385 4040

Email: fulham@rcdow.org.uk

***To stay informed or donate to our parish online,
please visit:***

<https://stthomasfulham.com/>

WRCDT – Charity Number 233699

