



Stewardship Campaign 2017

October 2016

Dear St James member,

St James is run not only by the ministry team but by the goodwill of everyone who does something within the life of the church. At this time of stewardship we are asking you to give thanks for all the blessings you have, by volunteering in one or more of our church ministries, and by contributing financially. The areas of ministry are listed in the church directory. Please speak to the ministry leader or one of the wardens for more information about how to volunteer, and what is involved. Those ministries where new members are needed are often advertised in the Bulletin.

The financial stewardship campaign starts this month, and we would encourage you to think and pray about your contribution. You can return the Planned Giving Scheme (PGS) form on any Sunday by placing it in the collection bag. Even if you are a current member of the scheme please take the time to update your form as this helps in the planning and preparation of our budget. Please also be aware that you can now more simply complete a 5-year covenant to the church if you wish, which maximises the tax benefit to you. This can be downloaded from the Belastingdienst website, and details can be obtained from the treasurer.

St James is a church where many members move on after a relatively short time of attendance. As a consequence we are very grateful to all new members who join the scheme, and to all existing members who review their commitment prayerfully and carefully.

We therefore commend the contents of this booklet to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Waters', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mike Waters, treasurer

p.p. Ruan Crew, chaplain
Gerrit van den Bovenkamp, churchwarden
Steve Hanford, churchwarden

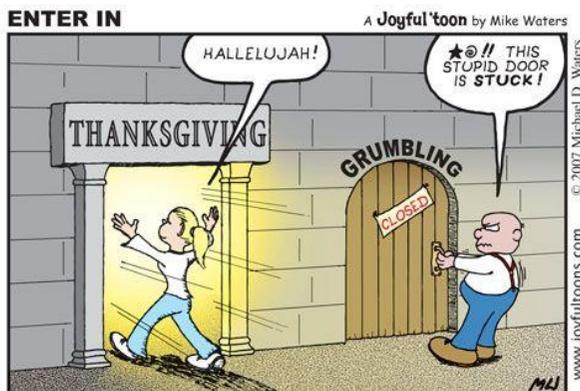
Thanksgiving

Our congregation is very diverse and talented. Each of us has challenges and opportunities, and also limits to our personal resources. Each of us serves Christ in our own way, according to what we have, and according to the exhortations that Christ makes to us personally through his teachings.

There is much to thank God for in our church. We are able to worship him freely in pleasant surroundings, ably led by our ministry team and blessed with the many and varied talents in our worship group and congregation. We have 29 regular ministry teams, from prayers to chairs, singing, playing instruments, flowers, altar and welcome!

For children and youth there is a full programme of activities, not only on Sundays but throughout the week, with bible study, social events, emotional and spiritual support, outward mission, and fun breaks to attend camping and music festivals. In addition to our full-time chaplain Ruan Crew, we employ a full-time youth pastor and are fortunate to have our own youth centre where many youth activities take place.

For adult members there is spiritual teaching, Alpha courses, and both practical and spiritual support for those who need it. There are prayer and home group activities taking place every week throughout the year, and fellowship and social activities of various kinds. Our worship group accompanies us at services, and practices in meetings through the week. We support 12 local and overseas missions to spread the good news about Christ and his teachings with both financial and spiritual support.



Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. PSALM 100:4 KJV

All of these activities require support and resources, and so we would invite you prayerfully to consider what Christ is calling on you personally to give to the ministry St James, and how much you want to give back to God in thanksgiving.

More than 91% of our income is via the Planned Giving Scheme (PGS). We have provided a PGS response form, including the opportunity either to contribute via bank transfer (preferred), or to use the cash envelope scheme, as a means of regular giving. If you are a taxpayer, please ask for information about claiming a tax rebate worth ~35% of the amount given on your giving (but please note the only way we can receipt your giving for the tax authorities is by using the Planned Giving Scheme).

The PGS form can be returned in a sealed envelope (to preserve confidentiality). The coordinator of the scheme is Mike Waters, who is also our Treasurer, and he is committed to preserving the confidentiality of PGS members.

Stewardship in St James

St James is completely self-funding, and all our resources come from the congregation. There is no support from the Church of England or any other body. All of our income comes solely from us, its members.

Where does our money go?

- Church ministry: 61%
- Church buildings: 18%
- External mission: 10%
- Diocesan contribution: 8%
- Youth Centre bond interest: 3%

Our 2016 budget is €180,900, and in 2017 the budget will be similar.

The church has ~125 active members consisting of ~57 family units. This means our costs are ~€60 per week per family attending, or ~€30 per person.

How much should we give? The guidance given in the Bible is varied – we are given principles, not rules. Throughout scripture money, and indeed all that we have, is seen as a gift held in trust. In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25), for example, Jesus showed that we are stewards, not owners. In the Old Testament the practice of tithing – setting aside 10% of income – was encouraged, and some find that a helpful guideline. Indeed, that is what we do as a church, giving 10% of our income

to our mission partners. But in the New Testament St Paul went further: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7).

We want our giving as Christians to be:

- thankful and cheerful - we give out of our abundance
- in proportion to our means – thankfulness is our guide
- regular and committed - reflecting our love of God



"To save money on traveling costs, we're going to start sending you out as an e-mail attachment."

A Personal Stewardship Prayer

All that I am, all I can be,
all that I have, all that is me,
accept and use as you desire, Lord.
Take every passion, every skill,
bend all my dreams to your will, Lord.
For all I give,
for you I'll live, Lord;
come what may.