



SUPPORTING OUR MINISTRY
INTO THE FUTURE...

THE CALL: TO ESTABLISH A YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY FUND

THE AIM: TO RAISE £150,000

"Let the little children come to me." Mark 10: 13.

In the Gospels Jesus calls us to care for the young through education and helping them in their time of need. Here at St. John's we take this call seriously. Since the introduction of a full-time Young People's Worker (or Youth Worker), five years ago, we have strived to be a church which cares for all the young people of Merrow, whether they have faith or not. We have seen the good that this can do for the young people in our community and we want to continue providing for all the young people in Merrow for years to come.

Therefore, we are establishing The Young People's Ministry Fund which aims to raise £150,000 to finance this ministry for at least the next five years. This booklet explains the work that we do now, the work that we hope to do and the ways in which you can support us.

Some may read this Booklet and think that we are asking solely for money. Yes, we are trusting that people will contribute to enable this vital ministry to proceed. But it's more than that. We want to show our community what we are doing now. We want to show them all the great work we are doing. And we want our community to join in.

Support isn't only financial. Support can be through volunteering too.

I hope you are inspired to join in with our ministry to our young people and to contact us if you feel able to join in.

With good wishes,

Tim

The Rev'd Tim Clifford Hill, Rector of Merrow



WHAT'S THIS YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY ALL ABOUT?

St. John's has form in the Young People's ministry business. We made a clear commitment to it five years ago when we employed a Young People's Worker (or Youth Worker) and we have seen the impact that has had. We have seen it through our Youth Cafe, Young People's groups, Sunday morning activities, Babies and Toddlers group, school partnerships, assemblies, Open the Book Team, Green Team, Messy Church and one-off seasonal activities. We want to keep the momentum going, making a long-term commitment to our young people now and for the future.

Churches which have experienced fruitful growth in their young people's ministry seem to share three common factors:

- They have a **COMMITTED LEADERSHIP MAKING INTENTIONAL CHOICES**, deliberately making provision for their young people in ways that are innovative and targeted at their particular circumstances.
- They have a **VISION THAT IS CAPTURED BY THE WHOLE CHURCH WHO SHARE AND PARTAKE IN THE MINISTRY**. It's where everyone in the church recognises its value and supports it in any way they can, be that prayerfully, financially or practically.
- They **EMPLOY A CHILDREN'S, YOUNG PEOPLE'S or FAMILIES WORKER** - someone whose passion, focus and skills are all geared towards engaging young people and families within their church family.

Under committed leadership, we are making an intentional choice, as a church, to develop a Young People's ministry for the long term. It is no good seeing great things happen for a year or so for it then to dwindle away. Not here! We want to build on what has gone before and look to the future so that everyone can have the opportunity to get to know Jesus.

This appeal to establish a Young People's Ministry Fund will let us continue to have a Young People's Worker here long term. That will be a sign that our church not only says we value our young people and families, but we are willing to take that statement seriously and do something about it.

HOW TO BUILD OUR FIVE YEAR YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY FUND

£150,000 sounds a huge amount but St. John's is good at responding to exciting challenges. Twenty years ago, we raised a massive sum to build our church centre. Ten years ago, we handsomely refurbished our Church interior. Today, it's an even more exciting venture to fund a project, aimed not at bricks and mortar, but at sharing God's Word with the lively young people of our Parish. £150,000 is what is needed to fund five year's worth of Young People's ministry; God will guide us again after that.

How can we go about it? Using our Church Membership roll of 150, just for illustrative purposes, you can work out what we need to donate on average. Clearly some of us will not be able to donate that much but also some will be able to afford more.

THE TWO SIMPLEST WAYS TO GIVE ARE:

1. Make a one-off donation. A £1000 gift from every Church Member (£800 if gift aided) would get us to our £150,000 total.
2. If making a one-off donation is too difficult, perhaps making a regular donation monthly or annually for 5 years would be possible. If every Church Member contributed £160 a year for five years that, gift aided, would reach the target.

A THIRD WAY IS THE LEGACY WAY,

leaving a legacy to our church to help fund our Young People's Ministry.

Usually the first thought of what to do with our estate when we eventually die is to pass it on to our family. Perhaps a second thought could be to think of God's family, the one with whom we have worshipped for a lifetime. A beautiful thought was given to us recently: "I'm going to leave at least 1% of my estate to my Church Family; my earthly family will be quite grateful for the other 99%"

Yes, the Fund may have to wait some years beyond the 5 year timescale (hopefully!) to benefit from the legacy. But it would allow us to use current reserves in the short term in the confidence that they would be made good in the longer term.

It is good to ask ourselves the question

"What is it I would like to be remembered for?"

and to perhaps find the answer in this exciting project.

HOW TO DONATE?



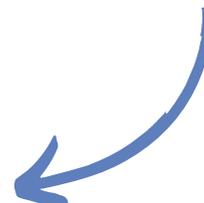
There are several ways to make a one-off gift

- Online by credit/debit card
- By bank transfer
- By cheque

ONLINE BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD



You can make a donation on our website by going to saintjohns.org.uk/young-peoples-ministry-fund or scanning this QR Code



If you are a tax payer, please tick the Gift Aid option.



BY BANK TRANSFER

Our bank details are:

Account name: Merrow PCC

Sort Code: 30-93-74

Account Number: 01511215

Reference: Young People's Ministry

If you are a tax payer, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration on page 9, place it in an envelope marked 'Confidential - Young People's Ministry.' and drop it into the Parish Office. You can also hand it to one of the churchwardens or sidespeople in church.



MAKING A
ONE-OFF GIFT

BY CHEQUE

Please make your cheque payable to : St John's Merrow PCC

If you are a tax payer, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration on page 9,

Please place your cheque and gift aid declaration in an envelope marked 'Confidential - Young People's Ministry.' and drop it into the Parish Office. You can also hand it to one of the churchwardens or sidespeople in church.



SETTING UP A
REGULAR GIFT



The easiest way to make a regular gift is to set up a Direct Debit with the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS).

You can do this online by scanning this QR Code



Alternatively you can call PGS on 0333 002 1271. Please quote our PGS Parish Code (170617091) when you speak to them.

You will be asked about Gift Aid.

There is also an option to have your donation automatically increased each year to cover inflation. If you are able to opt in to inflationary increases, that would be much appreciated. However, we quite understand if that is not something you want to do.

You can also opt to be anonymous.

SETTING UP A LEGACY

WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED FOR?

Contributing to our Five-Year Young People's Ministry Fund would be a great thing to be remembered for.

- Decide how much you could leave to St. John's - £100, £1,000, £10,000, £100,000 - or whatever.
 - It could be a fixed amount or a percentage of your estate's value.
 - Then you need to set this down formally for your executors to understand. It is best to do this in your Will.
 - If you already have made a Will, ask your solicitor to make the appropriate amendment.
- If you haven't yet made a Will (and it's a really good thing to make one whilst you can, as early as possible) then see your solicitor or consider using Farewill.

Farewill is a company partnered with the Church of England to provide a free-of-charge Will writing service.

Your point of contact for further guidance on leaving a legacy is Martin Thompson. He can be contacted in strictest confidence by email at giftaid@saintjohns.org.uk or by phone at 01483 578923.

It would be helpful if you could provide the following information in an envelope marked Confidential and addressed to Martin Thompson.



The 2024 Five Year Young People's Ministry Fund.

- Yes, I have already included a legacy to St. John's in my will.
- Yes, I am considering leaving a legacy to St Johns.
- Please contact me on to discuss how to progress this.

Name _____

Contact details _____

Signed _____



GIFT AID DECLARATION

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.
Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations
I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:

St John’s Church, Merrow (Charity no. 1127555)

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay
less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax
than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year
it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details

Title _____ First name or initial(s) _____

Surname _____

Full Home address _____

Postcode _____ Date _____

Please notify us if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.





PRAYER FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

Lord God,

You call us all, young and old,
to wait for the coming of your kingdom.
Help us to share with one another
the gifts we have been given,
so that we may all grow in wisdom
and knowledge of you and
proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ
afresh to every generation.

Amen





I HELPED FUND THE
YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY
WORK AT
ST JOHN'S AND...

...I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO BE
REMEMBERED FOR THAT.

