

# **GROWING TOGETHER**



**TOWARDS**

**'An overflowing church, a 'humming hub engaged in service to the whole community.'**



**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH**

**STEWARDSHIP/SPONSORSHIP 2014**

## INTRODUCTION

The ministry of the church changes lives both in our churches and in the wider community. We would firstly like to thank all of you who have contributed to this ministry through giving your time, money and talents over the past year. Giving is about our relationship with God; it is part of our stewardship of the world; it forms part of our worship and it is integral to discipleship. Together we can make a real difference!

2013 was a year of change at St Francis. Our Mission Action Plan (MAP) has been focusing our attention and helping us to look at all aspects of the church. One area, amongst others, that we have been concentrating on is our work with children and families. There is a feeling that St Francis is now a growing Church - our Nativity Service was certainly cause for celebration; the swelling of the ranks in the choir; the formation of a Youth Choir and much more.

However, we need to sustain the momentum. We need financial help; we need your time and talents; and most of all we need your prayers. We have achieved so much recently; we must seize the opportunity to continue the good work that has been started.

Financially in 2013 we were unable to meet our expenditure from our regular income. The ideal solution would be for us all to review our regular giving and see if this can be increased. However, we appreciate this can be difficult so we are again adopting last year's popular idea of sponsorship of specific items. We are asking for your help with the 5 goals our church has adopted in our MAP: we need your money, time and talent.

*We are a Church with a vision of being 'An overflowing church, a 'humming hub' which is engaged in service to the whole community. A place which enables people to connect with (or reconnect with) God in an accessible, active, inclusive, welcoming and spiritual way.'*

Please think and pray about your response to our Stewardship Campaign; take time to consider carefully where and how you can help. In whatever way you can help please complete the appropriate form at the end of this booklet.

Together we can achieve great things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Reverend Jenny Fennell - Vicar, St Francis of Assisi  
and the St Francis of Assisi Stewardship Committee

## OUR 5 MISSION ACTION PLAN GOALS

### SUSTAINING AND REINFORCING OUR INITIATIVES WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

December 2012 - Our nativity play - 4 children + helpers

December 2013 – Our nativity play – 54 children + helpers

This is just the start!

We encourage new families to join us, to sustain our work with children and to extend our work with teenagers and young people.

### YOU CAN SUPPORT US IN ANY NUMBER OF WAYS:

**VOLUNTEER** your time by joining a team that operates Messy Church or the Pram Service or Youth and Children's Church or our School's Programme.

**SUPPORT** our fundraising activities

**INCREASE** your regular giving to ensure that we provide warm, clean and well lit facilities for all.

### SPONSOR

Frankie's Garden Inspection £85

Christening Bibles £50

Hall cleaning for one week £45

Stationery, and pens £50

Piano tuning £200

Organ maintenance £100

Music licence £125/ qtr

### ENHANCING OUR STUDY AND PRAYER

Our church is a centre for learning, growth and development – this year we have run a Lent group and an Emmaus course, we have six existing House Groups (and would like more!) and we have seen our Ministry Team grow with the addition of a Curate-in-Training and one of our congregation being accepted for Reader training.

Prayer is the backbone of all we do – we hope that ours will be a church where every person who walks through the doors can encounter God in a variety of ways.

How can you help with this?

PRAY for us, first and foremost – also consider joining our Fellowship of Prayer or helping to deliver prayer cards around the parish.

JOIN a House Group, COME ALONG to Lent and other courses, or OFFER food for evening course meals (and join with us in the fellowship of food!)

DONATE the money for items we use in worship, such as candles (£125), communion wafers (£110) and wine (£170), or help with printing costs for prayer cards (£50), service sheets and pew leaflets (£75 /qtr).

SUPPORT our services by being a sidesman or woman, being an altar server, running the sound system, washing the altar linen, or reading the lesson.

#### USING OUR CHURCH AND HALL TO BEST EFFECT

Nearly everything we want to do needs a safe, clean, workable, warm building.

Ways you can help:

**VOLUNTEER** your time by helping with cleaning, maintaining the gardens, arranging flowers and with setup and breakdown for fundraising and other activities

**SUPPORT** effective use of what we have by filling out opinion sheets on the use and layout of our facilities

**INCREASE** your regular giving to ensure that we provide warm, clean and well lit facilities for all.

#### SPONSOR

Power bill	£140 /month
Gas bill	£275 /month
Water bill	£35 /month
Hall cleaning	£45 /month
Window cleaning	£150 /year
Fire precautions	£80
Electrical testing	£100

## IMPROVING OUR COMMUNICATIONS, DEVELOPING OUR USE OF THE INTERNET

As well as our well regarded parish magazine, our pew leaflets, our notice boards and our posters, we continue to develop our website and use of social media.

Ways you can help:-

TELL your friends and neighbours about our church - spread the word!

WRITE articles for the magazine

DELIVER leaflets in your area

ASSIST in the parish office

TELL US if anyone needs our help

### SPONSOR

Printing the magazine £125/issue

Our comms bills £125/qtr

Posters £100

See Round £90/year

## GROWING OUR PASTORAL NETWORK

The church is so much more than these four walls! Our Wednesday coffee mornings, Thursday lunches and men's breakfasts offer an opportunity to get to know some new people, and we do all we can to bring the church to the sick, hospitalised and housebound. But there are still so many people in our parish who are lost, scared and alone – all it takes is one person who cares to bring God's love shining into the world. Could you be that person?

ASSIST our team of volunteers in visiting the sick, housebound and bereaved.

HELP with transport, getting people to and from church, either from their homes or the QEII hospital.

JOIN the teams for making coffee on Wednesdays and Sundays, making lunch on Thursdays.

SUPPORT the costs of reaching out into the community, such as the printing and distribution of the magazine (£150 per issue), the travel costs of the ministry team (£75 /qtr), or the Lent and Harvest meals (£50 each).

**IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY OTHER WAY, PLEASE LET US KNOW. THANK YOU!**

# CONTRIBUTION SHEET

Please let us know which activities you can help with,  
either by participating or by sponsoring.

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

I can help with ..... (activity)

I can sponsor .....

Payment Enclosed £ .....

## NOTES ON GIFT AID

- If you are a tax payer and have paid sufficient tax to cover the cost of the item you are sponsoring then the cost of the sponsorship item can be reduced by the amount of tax which St Francis can recover from HMRC.
- If you are a tax payer and have paid sufficient tax to cover the cost of the item you are sponsoring then please *fill in one of the yellow gift aid envelopes at the back of the Church, enclose your payment and put it in the wall safe in the church porch.*
- If you are not a taxpayer please enclose your payment in the yellow envelope but do not complete the Gift Aid declaration on the outside of the envelope

**Note:** Where any sponsorship item is oversubscribed the PCC reserves the right to allocate monies to another sponsorship item.

If you would like to sponsor an item not included in the Sponsorship List then please speak to either Reverend Jenny Fennell or another member of the Stewardship Committee - Josh Young, Joan Gilbert, Dougie Agnew; Brian Towndrow; John Butler.

**PLEASE THINK AND PRAY ABOUT YOUR RESPONSE**

**A Confidential Financial Commitment – 2014**

To the Church Membership Fund Treasurer

Title ..... Full Name .....

Address .....

..... Post Code.....

Telephone .....

Email Address .....

My financial commitment for regular giving for the next 12 months is:

£ ..... per week/month/quarter/year

(please enter amount & circle one option)

commencing (day).....(month).....

I wish to pay weekly/monthly/quarterly/annually (please circle one option)

by the following method: (Please circle one option)

Envelopes

Bank standing order

Gift Aid declaration for tax reclaim: (Please circle one option)

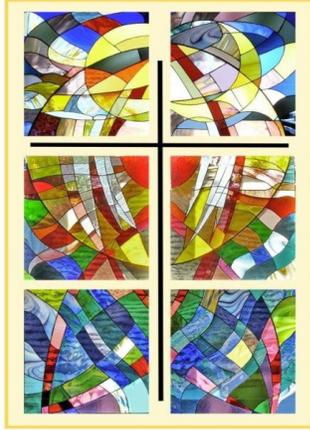
Please reclaim against my Gift Aid declaration

I am unable to sign a declaration

*So that we can ensure our Stewardship Appeal reaches all members of our congregation please return this form whether you are increasing your giving or renewing at the same level.*

This form should be returned by Sunday, 25 May 2014 to the box at the back of the church marked 'for the attention of the CMF Treasurer'. If you need any further information please contact the CMF Treasurer, Richard Blanch on 01707 322166. *There are spare copies of this form at the back of the church.*

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ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Registered Charity Number 1129849 · Church Road, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6QJ

THE PARISH CHURCH OF WELWYN GARDEN CITY