

PLANNED GIVING AND STEWARDSHIP – VOLUNTEER FAQs

FINAL = 30 August 2023

<p>What is this Planned Giving and Stewardship season?</p>	<p>It is a season running from mid Sep to early Oct in which the Parish is asking its parishioners to reflect on their participation in Parish life and, in particular, to review the extent of their time, talents and financial commitments. For Parish life, ministry, and mission to flourish, it requires active participation from many, and it needs to have the finances to support all aspects of Parish life, ministry, and mission.</p>
<p>Why is it called “Planned Giving and Stewardship”?</p>	<p>From New Testament times onwards every Christian community of faith has always recognised and celebrated the commitment and participation of its members. For its finances to be secure, it does need those members who are in the position to make regular financial contributions to give according to their means. The term “Stewardship” refers to wider participation in the life of the parish community by giving their time and talents. All parishioners are asked to pray for the Parish and its mission amongst the people of Ealing.</p>
<p>Wasn’t there a similar appeal for money last year?</p>	<p>Last year, the Parish had to to change its bank. For all those already with standing orders or direct debits, we needed to alert them so they could change those payments, and we also invited them to think about raising the amount they gave if they had the means and desire to do so. We also asked all parishioners not already giving to consider doing so.</p>
<p>Wasn’t there some sort of Stewardship drive not that long ago?</p>	<p>In 2013 the Westminster Diocese introduced a five-year programme called “Growing in Faith”, for which there was an appeal for Ealing Abbey parishioners to sign-up. The money donated went to Diocese programmes, but 20 percent of the total money raised went to fund projects in the parish. One such project was the installation of a new sound system in 2014. These funds have all been received, used as pledged and the programme has come to an end.</p> <p>The Diocese recommends that all parishes run a Planned Giving Drive every three to four years. Our last campaign was 10 years ago. During this time there has been enormous change and new economic pressure and challenges have arisen which we need to respond to if we are to ensure Ealing Abbey remains here as a Christian witness in our community for many generations to come.</p>
<p>Have the Parish Team and Parish Finance Committee really tried to cut back on costs?</p>	<p>Over the past few years, the Parish Priest, Parish Team, Parish Finance Committee have exercised care and attention to managing the costs of the Parish, consistent with being able to fulfil its mission through its many liturgical, sacramental catechetical and pastoral means. However, external factors, such as increased energy bills, resulted in higher costs – the management of which was outside of our control. We will continue to manage all costs prudently going forward, even if the Parish’s income rises as a result of Planned Giving increases.</p>

Is all of the new money raised to be used for the Parish itself?	Yes, it is all to be used for improving the income of the Parish budget which has been badly affected by the cost of energy in particular.
Doesn't the monastic community subsidise the Parish, and why shouldn't this continue?	Parish costs are accounted for separately, and this will continue. The Parish has been extremely fortunate that in the past few years, owing mainly to the pandemic, the deficit that has arisen has been compensated by the Trust, but this is not sustainable.
What are the main costs incurred by the Parish?	Please see the leaflet for Weekend 2, which shows the main costs incurred by the Parish team. The largest items are employment/people costs and upkeep, electricity and heating of the Abbey Church.
If I make a planned giving commitment, what happens if I can no longer afford it?	You can pause, update, or cancel your direct debit or monthly online contribution at any time.. The Parish benefits enormously from those who are able to give regularly but recognises that this should always be according to people's means. If you find yourself needing to reduce, pause or stop your giving because of changed circumstances, the Parish will fully understand and support you with making any necessary changes to your giving arrangements.
What about Gift Aid?	Yes, the Parish uses the Gift Aid scheme to claim an additional 25% of income from the government in respect of those who pay UK taxes and sign the relevant Gift Aid forms. This is a critical form of support which is not costing Parishioners extra money as the match money is provided by the Government. Please ask for more details as you would need to register (and be a taxpayer) for your contribution to be matched by 25% extra.
Why is there an emphasis on Planned Giving rather than other ways of giving?	The Parish Team is better able to plan ahead if it has a good idea of how much income it will receive month by month, and this is why the emphasis in this season is on that type of giving. However, the Parish welcomes and makes full use of all types of giving, from cash in collections at Mass through to one-off giving at cashless payment points in the porches and online donations. If a parishioner also wishes to recognise the Parish by means of a legacy in their will, this is also welcomed.
How much are you trying to raise?	The deficit for the last two years has been roughly unchanged (see Week 2 figures), especially because energy costs have cancelled out other savings. We need to try to close that deficit and, ideally, to be able to build up our reserves to make the Parish more financially secure in future years.
What other sources of income is the Parish looking for?	The Parish depends on the generosity and commitment of its parishioners. Aside from giving of various sorts, the Parish Social Committee has a programme of events, some of which aim to raise funds for the Parish. In addition to regular giving, legacy, donations, weddings & funerals help support the Church too. If anyone has ideas about other ways to raise money, please do let us know.

<p>Do I have to sign up now or never?</p>	<p>This season is about raising awareness and the level of regular giving so that the Parish can effectively plan for the future. If you are not able to do so this time around, the Parish Team fully understands and there is no pressure at all. If your circumstances do change in the future, please speak to a member of the Parish Team or contact the Parish Office and we will be happy to help.</p>
<p>I haven't previously registered with the Parish? Can I still do Planned Giving?</p>	<p>The Parish complies with all aspects of GDPR and other data regulations. Whether or not you are able to make a planned giving commitment, please let us have your contact details if you haven't previously done so.</p>
<p>I might want to volunteer my time for something? Who do I talk to?</p>	<p>Please speak to the Parish Priest or any member of the Finance Committee or Pastoral Council, or contact the office by phone on 020 8194 2301 or email to the parishoffice@ealingabbey.org.uk . We will be happy to talk to you about the opportunities to participate in many different ways.</p>
<p>I saw a large Catholic estate sold in Ealing. Isn't this money available for the Parish?</p>	<p>The money raised by the sale of Nile Lodge belongs to the Capitano Sisters. The Parish does not benefit from the sale. We have to raise our funding through Parishioners' contributions and donations.</p>