

Notes from the Churchwardens December



GENEROSITY AT CHRISTMAS

At this time of year we think of presents, and celebrating with friends and family. We each decide how much to spend, and we think of people in need. We give thanks for all the generosity of God, and especially for the gift of Jesus.

This church needs money to support the choir and our strong musical tradition, to pay office staff, and to cover all our running costs. That comes to about £2,000 each week. We are very grateful for all the people who give regularly, and for the donation we receive from the Spalding Rectory Feoffees. Sadly all that is not enough, and we think we will finish 2024 with a deficit.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please consider giving an extra donation to the church this Christmas. Whatever you can afford will be gratefully received. Make your contribution to keep the work and worship of this church going for everyone to enjoy.

WAYS TO DONATE AS YOU LEAVE THE CHURCH

Cash can be put in the plate.

You can pay by card at the new machine.

If you are a taxpayer please fill in a yellow envelope, or give your details on the card machine, to enable the church to claim Gift Aid. This adds 25% to your donation.

GENEROSITY IS NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS

If we are to afford all our commitments next year, the church needs extra regular income. Something like £400 extra every week. That could be an extra £5 each week on average from everyone in church, but some can't afford that much, so others will need to give more.

We encourage you to join the Parish Giving Scheme, giving by Direct Debit, so that we can plan a realistic budget.

Thank you for all that you do, and for caring about this church, where we worship God and work together for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Sue Slater, Chair of Finance Team

Christmas is coming!

We begin the season of Advent with a service of music and readings at 6.30pm on Sunday, 1st December.

The church will be decorated with greenery on 2nd and 3rd December. There will be Taizé prayer for Advent at 7.30pm on the 3rd, as well.

We will be hosting the Royal Foundation 'Together for Christmas' Carol service at 6pm on Wednesday, 4th December.

In the run up to the end of the school term, the church will also welcome somewhere in the region of 3,000 students, staff and parents from Spalding Grammar School, Spalding High School, Monkshouse Primary Academy and Spalding Parish Church of England Day School.

A service of Carols and Lessons will take place at 6.30pm on Sunday, 22nd December.

There will be a family friendly Nativity service on Christmas Eve at 4pm. We will celebrate Midnight Mass at 11.30pm.

On Christmas Day we hope to offer Holy Communion at 8am (this will be confirmed nearer the time) but there will definitely be a Eucharist at 10.30am.

Please pray for all those who will be coming in to Church in December and for those who work so hard to prepare for and deliver worship and offer a welcome.

Appointing a new Vicar

Candidates visited the parish on 19th November with formal interviews on the following day and we are awaiting the outcome.

Harvest Thanksgiving

The total of the gifts of cash taken at our services on 6th October was £192 which has been sent to Christian Aid .



Jean Hill & Val Fairbanks - Churchwardens

www.stmaryandstnicolas.org.uk

