

Dear

Davington

Thank you for your support as a member of St Mary Magdalene's Church over the past year. Working together as a congregation, we have:

- continued to enjoy a wide range of Sunday and mid-week services, enjoy a Flower Festival, Coffee Mornings, a Quiz night
- launched our website www.dochurch.org.uk
- continued to reach out to families through running Little Angels, toddler group and launching Active Church at West Faversham Community Centre

Alongside all these initiatives is the ongoing ministry to our own members and the wider community. These and all our other activities continue on a daily basis supported by the faithfulness of church members. After much preparatory work as we look to the year ahead, we hope to start our re-ordering project, which will hopefully include a loo, kitchenette and parish room. The projected cost of this in the region of £180 000, some of which we already have through faithful giving.

We have not had a stewardship campaign for a number of years. With the appointment of a new parish priest, whom we share with Ospringe and the Diocesan appointment of Bishops Missioner and different projects on the horizon, it seemed a good time for us to review our finances. At a time when the general economic situation might not look encouraging, it is perhaps particularly appropriate for us to review our financial priorities. By reflecting on how important our faith and church are to us we can determine the extent to which our giving can ensure that St Mary Magdalene's continues to be a living worshipping community with a Parish Priest. Most of us review our finances annually and it seems prudent to plan our giving to the church in a similar way. This would involve reviewing our giving in the context of our own, and the church's, changing financial situation as part of an annual act of thanksgiving.

An annual renewal will provide an opportunity to give thanks for God's generosity to us and to commit afresh to supporting His work in Davington. Revd Tracey spoke on God's faithfulness and generosity to us in July and if you would like to read of this, please visit our website www.dochurch.org.uk or ask her for a copy. Sunday 28th September during our Harvest Festival we will be having a special time of thanksgiving for God's generosity to us and for our response in helping to meet this year's challenges.

The PCC manages the budget very carefully and in this year alone has made several savings through 'tightening their belts', but we still need to increase our giving by some £700 a month to keep pace with costs, let alone financing the re-ordering project. Church members are often unaware of the income and outgoings of the church and on occasions have blamed the National Church or Diocese 'for taking all of our money'. Please do look at <http://www.canterburydiocese.org/stewardship/parishshare/index.htm> to become aware of what the Parish Share covers and the enclosed leaflets which will explain in more detail the expenditure of our church. Our Parish Share is affected by members on our electoral roll. As one such member you have taken a specific interest in our church and we hope you may feel able to contribute towards your church.

Please give this letter and Commitment Form your careful consideration. Our Planned Giving and Gift Aid Schemes are organised to ensure confidentiality between you and those directly involved in running them. I hope very much that you are able to make a commitment to regular giving to St Mary Magdalene's. If so, please complete the form and return it to the Treasurer by **28th September**. I also invite you to join in our first annual Thanksgiving Sunday on 28th September. If you have any questions about this initiative, please contact me or Mrs Ashley Sayewell, our Treasurer ashley@granvia.eclipse.co.uk or contact me.

With Every Good Blessing