



**Vicar's Letter - Get Involved 2018**  
**Sunday 19 November**  
**"Store up for yourselves treasure in heaven"**  
**November 2017**

***Dear Friends,***

Where is God leading our church? Thank you to all who contributed your thoughts to the process of discerning direction for our Parish. We are on the brink of a new Vision of the church God wants us to be.

By the end of the year we will have a clear idea of where we are going and will have begun to work on a strategy to get us there. It is exciting to be part of what God is doing in Walton on Thames.

Many of you care deeply about the people of our town who do not yet know Jesus and want to be a more welcoming, more caring church. This is very encouraging. God is not tired of hearing our prayers for our family, friends and neighbours to know his love that surpasses knowledge. Jesus' acceptance, forgiveness and extravagant love for us is worth more than anything else in the whole world.

The amazing thing is that he calls us, his church, to be the ones through whom his glory is revealed and people come to see his love and light.

We are like a family and to make our church work, we all need to be fully involved. Praying for and caring for each other, not just those we know well; giving money to pay for the ministry, pastoral care, administration that maybe we take for granted; most of all using our gifts to serve God, the church and one another. There are so many fulfilling ways we can Get Involved in St Mary's and St John's. Financially, we have run out of the reserves which have kept the church going for some years and it is time for us all to step up our regular giving to the church. Please see financial information overleaf.

*There is so much we gain from being a church member: spiritual nourishment, a real multi-generational family, people who care about us, safe children's groups, youth groups and seniors group, prayers of God's people and pastoral care.*

## **A HUGE THANK YOU to all those who gave and served in 2017.**

Get Involved is one Sunday a year when we first of all say 'Thank you' to all who have done just that – given time, talents and money for God's work in response to his love for us in Jesus. Secondly, we ask you to consider during November how you can serve and give in 2018 without being rushed into a quick decision. Get Involved is a time to assess our regular giving and raise it where we can. This must be a family decision, like joining a club for the year ahead and paying our subscription. Receiving no external funding, it is crucial that we all give monthly, Gift Aided, preferably by Standing order (or Parish Giving Scheme). If you're not on a regular income, we understand if you need to adjust or supplement your Standing Order. More information overleaf. Please sign up to serve and help in 2018, so we don't have to look for volunteers all year round.

*Without your generosity, we could not have taught 250 children about Jesus, done assemblies, put on a Holiday Club for children, reached out to needy families, produced clear and effective communications and Service booklets, done funerals, weddings, baptisms, brought worship, teaching, discipling, prayer and visited those in need.*

*Thank you.*

**What to do?** Please fill in the attached Giving form and Serving form with your pledges to serve and give in 2018. Please put these in a blue envelope and put in the basket joyfully in the service on 19th November. Or return to the church office, or fill in on line, see the web-site, or send an email to [volunteer@waltonparish.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@waltonparish.org.uk) saying how you are going to help preferably before 19 Nov. Those who are already involved, please tick to say you want to continue.

Thank you so much for being a vital part of the exciting journey God is taking us on together.  
In Christ,

***Jonny & Cathy***

## More Information:

### SERVING

To find out more about the voluntary serving roles, see the "Get Involved" cards in the churches. To find out more about using the gifts God has given you to bless others in the family, please see information about the Servant Course on the web-site.

### FINANCE

See Leaflet "Giving to God through the church" to find out where your money goes and how to give.

## Typical annual income and expenditure for the Parish of Walton-on-Thames

Income	£'000	Expenditure	£'000
Funding received from the Church of England	-	Annual payment to the Diocese of Guildford	118
Funding received from Elmbridge Council and local authorities	-	Maintaining churches and church halls	36
Grants	-	Maintaining our three properties	26
Giving from our parishioners	154	Ministry and training	22
Funding received from the Church Fund Trust	40	Spending on developing our children and young people	21
Renting of halls and property	33	Spending on administration and organisation	21
Other income	12	Mission giving – locally and international	16
		Provision of music at both churches	12
		Sundry	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>284</b>

## Projected cashflow for the year to 31 December 2018



0 to 100000 on the left is £'s. In reading this cash flow, please bear in mind the 3 months running costs are approximately £70,000

## New Under 5's and Families' Outreach Minister

Separate from our regular giving is a fund-raising drive to raise £27,500 by the end of November for one year for an Under 5's and Families' Outreach Minister. Please do not divert regular giving to the church for this project. Thank you. This is investing for the future. See separate leaflet. Please organise fund raisers, put your contributions in the Blue buckets and add to the Totaliser!