

# Christian Stewardship

## Here today!

The past ten years have been challenging for the Chaplaincy. Without funds to replace the retiring Chaplain we have learned to rely on our church officers and volunteer ministers for leadership. Covid and Brexit disrupted and altered the pattern of our church attendance, as well as reducing the number of Anglophones visiting or moving to the area. Consequently, while costs have risen, income has been reduced - our finances are seriously stretched.

And yet... we have done more than survived! Over these years we have developed and adapted:

- Meetings and weekday activities have moved online
- We have maintained a rich and varied pattern of weekly and special services
- We publish a magazine, weekly newsletter, Facebook page, and a website with 16K visits annually
- Our ecumenical involvement with the wider Christian community has greatly increased
- We have a Vision Statement, aspiring to be 'Walking together with Christ: Companions on the Way'
- We have used our resources to care for members and our wider community

...and we've reached the end of that mortgage!

We have more than survived - we rejoice to know that we are alive! But we believe God wants more for the Chaplaincy, and that He hopes for more from us: our aspiration is to flourish and grow, and [REDACTED] is about to be licensed as our Chaplain to help us to achieve this. There are fresh challenges ahead, but we believe that God will guide us through them all if we serve Him with generous hearts and willing hands.



## Why Give? (Ephesians 2:1-10)

When you give, you are first and foremost giving to God, who is so rich in *mercy, compassion and unfailing love* that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for us on the cross; to pay the price for our sins so we can have eternal life. He then continues to watch over us every day of our lives, supplying all our needs, lovingly caring for us, having compassion on us when we are in times of difficulty.

## What to give (2 Corinthians 9: 6-11)

We are not under any compulsion to give but should give out of a grateful and generous heart. We are told 'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' But also to 'Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. We cannot outgive God!



Please prayerfully consider starting to give regularly or to increase your current giving.

## How to give (Matthew 28:16-20)

A regular gift will enable us to maintain our two Churches and build up funds so we can continue the work that [REDACTED] is doing during his time as Chaplain. To ensure this happens we will need to be in a position to appoint a paid Chaplain at the end of this period.



Please prayerfully consider making regular offerings - ideally by direct transfer - or increasing your existing gifts. Also, you could make a one-off donation that will enable the renovation work on the salle to be fully completed so this too can be used to help spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

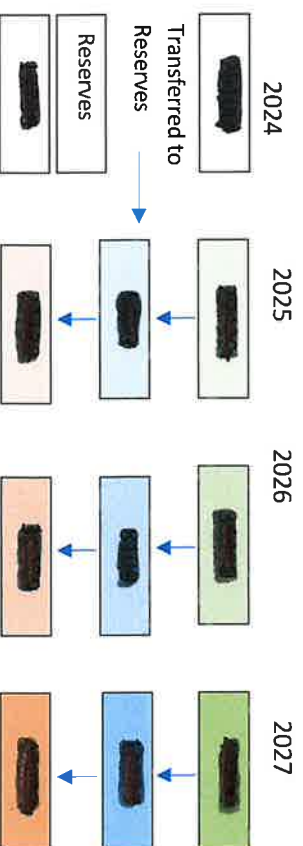
## Regular Giving

To be able to appoint a permanent Chaplain at the end of [redacted] time as Chaplain we need to increase our current income by approximately 17% each year for the next three years. We are required to have reserves of [redacted] € and income to cover the cost of a new Chaplain.

If our regular giving increased by 10% in the first year ([redacted] €) we would need to fundraise [redacted] € to stay on target.

If our focus on outreach increases our regular attendance this could also increase our income.

Required income to cover the cost of a Chaplain:



- These figures do not include:
- The reserves to repay the mortgage - these are ring fenced
- The Insurance money to repair the Salle roof - these are ring fenced
- Any reserves to carry out any work to the Salle not covered by the insurance

## One-off Gifts



All one-off gifts will first be used to complete any work on the Salle. Any left over will be used for outreach to the surrounding communities.

Please give generously to enable the progress of God's work in the Manche

## And Here Tomorrow

Living things evolve. Our church is evolving, and we believe the change is being guided by God. Our understanding is changing, from seeing the church as a place to go, to realising that the church is an experience of living community. Our aspiration as a church is changing, from 'surviving' to 'living and flourishing'.

How we see ourselves guides how we see our task - the things we feel God calling us to do. The Chaplaincy Council has expressed hopes for what we can do: my task as Chaplain is to lead the churches towards those aims step by step.

What are our plans?

- Deepen discipleship. Recent experiences of answered prayer show that God hears us when we call to Him. We hope to build up members in faith and understanding, and to provide more opportunities to learn, pray and serve together as a community.
- Become better known as welcoming churches. A flurry of Dutch families coming to worship this summer encourages us to continue building our presence on internet and social media - to raise awareness among English-speaking holiday visitors, second home owners, new residents.
- Reach out and plant new worship centres in areas we do not reach. Our churches started by people planting new worship centres which grew into churches; soon we hope to carry the message forward the same way. We have the human resources to do this - we need to find out where there will be the greatest opportunities.

