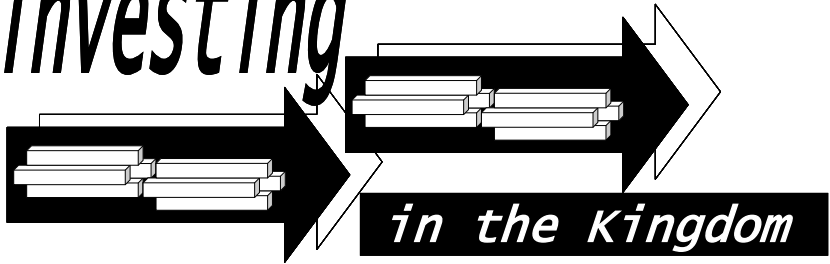


Investing



“...And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all you need, you will abound in every good work.”

2 Cor 9: 8

Vision

Mission

Outreach

Administration & Pastoral Support

Youth & Children's Ministry

Buildings

St John's 2010



Telephone: 01206-843232

e-mail: office@stjohnscolchester.org.uk

Website : www.stjohnscolchester.org.uk

Dear Friend

I want to start this booklet by thanking you for your part in building God's Kingdom here at SJC both by your presence and as a co-worker, and for all that you are giving already.

In 2009, the year of the credit crunch and deep global recession which many of us felt, the Lord has wonderfully met our needs as a church. I believe that it is through you, His people, and your response to the reality of God's great goodness, grace and generous love. Thank you all so much!

A PREFERRED FUTURE – The Vision

Nearly 5 years ago – 11 September 2005 to be precise – I painted a big picture in words, of a 'preferred future' for SJC.

It was a picture of a relationally based church that was Gospel focussed, and Mission shaped with relevant and inspiring worship and a ministry to our community and town in the strength of the Holy Spirit that fits our culture and context.

It was of a church that ministered to pre-school and school children, young people, men and women, singles, marrieds, families, to workers, the retired and seniors, the broken, lonely and the needy.

It was of a church where belonging, hospitality, generosity, accessibility, friendliness and the Father's love and grace are the hallmarks.

It was of a church that was Cross-centred, Spirit-led and founded on the Word of God so that we might be a people whose hearts are set on the Lord *"to experience and express the presence and love of God at the heart of the community"*.

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

▪ **Enlarging Our Tent**

As part of this 'preferred future' being realised, is the vision to build a **New Church Hall** – a building that speaks of Jesus and people coming into it and being touched by His love. We have large numbers of people coming onto our site every week. Our current buildings are at saturation point in terms of their use and if we are to grow and extend the Kingdom of God we need to "enlarge the place of our tent" (Isaiah 54: 2). We need to transform the site:

For the Community to meet the Kingdom

For the Church to meet as Family

For Generations to come.

This year we expect this part of the 'picture' to start to be realised with a date to build planned for the autumn.

Enlarging our Minds

A further part of realising our preferred future is the need for our internal structures and systems to be able to support our growth. This involves something of a change in understanding around how we perceive church as well as 'enlarging our tents'. I believe we need to 'enlarge our minds' as we move to operating as a 'big' church in order to realise the vision God has given.

From Easter this year we now have in place our Operations Manager, Dawn, and our new Administrator, Anita. Julia now becomes our Finance Officer and there are computer and office support staff to help in the administration workload of the church. They are sorely needed – and do a great job because they release ministry and as they settle in, increasingly they will enable more ministry to happen in the life of the Church.

We now have Ben on board as our Youth Worker. He is doing a great job and we have invited him to stay on for another 2 years so that he can consolidate and grow the work he has been doing.

Celia gives her time and talents to co-ordinating our Cell Life and is an invaluable asset to our Staff Team. And other ministries in the Church are headed up by Team Leaders – many of whom have a place in the Church Ministry Leadership Team.

Ministries abound (too many to mention in this booklet) exercised by the army of volunteers whose praise we can't sing loudly enough. You are the heartbeat of SJC. Thank you.

FUELLING THE FIRE OF GROWTH

▪ **Enlarging Our Hearts**

As we navigate through this season of transition to enlarge our minds we must not settle. We are a Church on the move, a people with a purpose and we must ever be asking the Lordwhat next? What do we need to invest in next to fuel the fire of growth?

Well, we believe we need:- **more capacity**

More Capacity for **worship services**, both at weekends and maybe midweek, perhaps reflecting different styles.

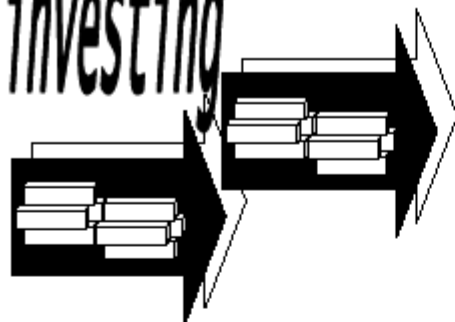
More Capacity for ministry as more **Leaders** and **Helpers** are called to serve using their time, gifts and talents for what they care about.

More Capacity for **community engagement** both within the Church and our locality by enjoying being together.

More Capacity financially to **resource** ministries, activities, events and services to bring people into the Kingdom and know the love of Jesus.

And for all this we need to '**enlarge our hearts**'.

Investing



in the Kingdom

Home and Overseas Mission £36,200

Including the Antioch Fund
- financially supporting 8
missionary households,
and Mission & Mercy
Ministries.

Administration & Pastoral Support £67,061

Staff salaries, Office equipment,
Sunday Worship, Music,
Training, Cells, Expenses of
Office, PA/AV, Telephone,
Supplies, Publicity,

Buildings £25,150

Church Centre, Church
Hall, Churchyard,
Maintenance, Servicing,
Heating, Cleaning,
Lighting, Insurance,
Housekeeping

Family Purse £91,615

Paid direct to Diocese & including
Clergy Stipend, Housing Repairs
& Management, Council Tax,
N.I. Water Rates, Pension,
Ordination & In-Service Training,
Insurance, Child Protection

Local Outreach £3,650

Parish Mission, Alpha,
Connect, Toddler
Groups, Primetime,
Hospitality, Evangelistic
Events

Youth & Children's Ministry £14,020

Youth Worker, Four90,
Youth Cells, Get Real,
Stomp, Events & School
Hire

**2010
BUDGET
£237,696**

*Our present needs for Mission & Ministry and
where our giving goes*

Investing in the Kingdom – Building for the future – that is what we are about and so far I've tried to encapsulate what the vision is, where we are at and what we need to do next to move us further to its realisation.

INVESTING IN THE KINGDOM

Having set out the vision, the remainder of this booklet explains what our current financial needs are, where the finance goes and, having caught and owned the vision God has given to us, how you can give to resource our work to fulfil it. (*see centre pages*)

Many are already giving generously to the Church and it's recognised that not all can increase their contribution. Yet it is clearly right that each of us should review our financial affairs regularly.

Why Give?

Giving to God is a natural response to His love and grace. In many ways, the more clearly we see what God has done for us the more generous we will be in our response to Him.

Jesus is Lord – He has authority over the whole of life. Giving then is not a question of preference and taste, but our acknowledgement of the Lordship of Christ as Saviour. When we give we are only able to do so because God has provided for us (1 Cor 16: 2 & 1 Chr 29:4).

Jesus is Saviour – The great expression of God’s love is the gift of His Son to meet our every need. We show our love in return by giving to others as if to Him (Jn 3:16).

Blessings & Growth – Giving is not only a responsibility, it is also a privilege. It not only make demands, it brings blessings. Many of us have experienced this – we reap what we sow. The early church took the promises of scripture at their face value and found that they worked (2 Cor 9: 6 – 11).

At this time, the New Church Hall is our greatest financial challenge. Giving to this Project should not be at the expense of maintaining our currents missions and ministries. There will be an opportunity to give separately and sacrificially to the building project in May and details will be available shortly.

Please consider making a planned contribution to the work of the church if you do not already do so and please review your giving if you do. The amount you promise is for you to decide but remembering what the Bible says about giving, will you ask yourself, “How much does God want me to give?”

Thank you and God bless you.

Yours, in the Father’s love

Bob Fuller

Some simple questions answered

Some Simple Questions Answered

Why should I give?

“Giving is not God’s way of getting money but God’s way of making us more like Jesus.” (Keith Tondeur)

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor. **2 Cor 8:9***



What should I be giving to the church?

*All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. **Acts 2:44***

Every member of the church is invited to share in this responsibility and privilege.



What amount should I give?

*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse. **Malachi 3:10***

God’s people were asked to give one tenth of their income – a tithe

If every member of the church tithed, the ministry would expand very rapidly!

(Lev 27:30)

What should motivate me to give?

The privilege of being invited by God to do something of everlasting significance for his Kingdom.

*They urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. **2 Cor 8:4***



With what attitude should I give?

*Not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **2 Cor 9:7***



What if I already give?

Now is a good time to review our giving. It’s easy to forget and as a result lose an opportunity and a blessing.

What will happen if I want to give more?

Whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 2 Cor 9:6

A great vision will only be achieved through great giving.



Will I be able to cope financially?

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matt 6:33

Why is giving good for me?

I tell you the truth it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God. Matt 19:23

Giving is one of the ways that God has provided for us to avoid idolatry of money.



Can I give to a particular part of the church's vision?

If, in addition to your tithe, you want to give an offering to one of the specific areas of ministry, such as Antioch or the Building Project please do so.

(Deut 12: 6)



Should I be giving more?

Set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income. 1 Cor 16:2

Our giving is in proportion to our income.

Each year we ought to review our giving if we have had a pay rise. In addition, some will be in a position to start giving a higher proportion of their income than they were able to give previously.

Some will be able and glad to give more than a tithe.



How can I give?

By a regular systematic method. This helps us plan our expenditure as a church through the year and it helps you to be responsible in the way you give. There are a number of ways you can give systematically:

Bank Standing Order

This is our preferred method of giving. It helps us keep our administration costs down and, for you, it involves filling in one form, just once. To give in this way, complete the standing order form enclosed and return it to Janet Bailey (contact details below).

If you already give by Standing Order, don't forget to review the amount you give. If you want to increase it please first let Janet Bailey know before you contact your bank.

Envelopes

For regular cash or cheque givers, we provide special envelopes – please speak to Janet Bailey. Envelopes are also available by the Offering Box for **one-off gifts by cash or cheque**. (*The offering box is near the centre aisle when you come into church for services.*)

Gift Aid

If you are a UK tax payer, any monies you give, by whatever method, can be treated as Gift Aid donations, and the church can reclaim from the Inland Revenue the tax you have already paid on the money you give. A gift of £10 is worth £12.80; a gift of £500 is worth £640. If you have not already completed a Gift Aid Declaration but would like your giving to be gift-aided, please ask for a Gift Aid Declaration form or pick one up from the lobby table.

Legacies/Bequests – You can make a gift to the Church through your will. Your legal advisor should be able to assist you with this.

For further information speak to:

Janet Bailey
George Pilgrim
Julia Hassard

Gift Aid Secretary
Church Treasurer
Finance Officer

☎ 865457
☎ 841411
☎ 843232

Bank Standing Order

To..... Bank PLC

Address
..... (full address of bank)

Please pay Barclays Bank PLC, 9 High Street, Colchester, CO1 1DD, code 20-22-67, for the credit of St John's with St Luke's PCC, Account No. 30777668

The sum of (£
.....)
(amount in words) (figures)

Commencing on/...../..... and **monthly / quarterly / yearly*** thereafter until further notice under reference and debit **my / our*** account accordingly.

This is a **new / replacement / additional*** mandate.

*Please delete as appropriate

Signature(s)..... Date
.....

Address
.....Post Code
.....

Account Name.....

Account NoBank Sorting Code

If you wish to Gift Aid – please complete separate Gift Aid Envelope
Please return this form to Janet Bailey c/o St John's Church Office, St John's Close, Colchester CO4 OHP (she will then forward it onto your bank)