



STEWARDSHIP NOW IS THE TIME from Dean Phillip

May they all be one; just as you, Father are in me, and I in you, so may they be at one in us, in order that the world may believe that you have sent me.

One of the truisms of Christian life is the expression - *bloom where you are planted* and all of us have been planted here. In this Anglican Church, in this Cathedral. I believe that we are blessed with the gift of worshipping in this place and community.

The Wardens and Cathedral Council work hard to manage the complex and challenging budget of the Cathedral, which are quite different from those of an ordinary parish.

As various affects from the pandemic have kicked in and some of our other sources of income have stopped temporarily, we have come to somewhat of a crunch.

With costs constantly increasing to maintain our worship there are only so many ways that the Wardens and Cathedral Council can juggle the budget.

It is timely to look at our regular meaningful giving. If any of you are able to give a one of donation that would be helpful too.

Since it has been before the pandemic we last spoke together on stewardship and reviewed our regular meaningful giving it is a fitting time to do so.

This is something all of us as followers of Jesus need to do.

In another parish in which I served one of our elderly ladies was reminiscing about her mother's devotion to the faith, and to the church that she would give 5 shillings regularly to the church. This would have been in the early twentieth century, about 1905 and now she, the lady I was talking to, continues with the same tradition, that is she gives 50c a week. In the 2000s!

Our giving needs to be regular and meaningful.

Whether you see yourself as one of the 'haves' or 'have nots', regular giving which is meaningful to you needs to be part of our Christian life.

Regular meaningful giving is part of our Christian discipline.



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It can help to counteract the constant messaging we receive that *we are what we have* and to feel good we have to buy things, or the inordinate worry over money matters.

Our Cathedral is a place of incomparable beauty which makes it easy to find the presence of God day by day Sunday by Sunday.

Our Cathedral is a place where worshipping in beauty and quietness is valued.

Our Cathedral also a diverse community - a community which I doubt could exist in your average suburban parish; a community which is unique in this rural city. A community which is also a blessing of the Spirit. A community which each of us needs to support;

To continue to be blessed in this place, and to be this loving witness, all of us need to consider looking again at our stewardship.

During the pandemic we asked everyone to move over to electronic giving and many of you did. This has been helpful. I would like others to consider that too. If you are not computer wise, you just take your pew-sheet down to your bank and ask them to set it up.

So over to you all now.

I'm going to end with a verse from Paul who was talking about the very same thing in his letter to the church in Corinth:

'The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'

2 Corinthians 9.6-7

Bank details:

Account Name: St.Saviour's Cathedral Parish
BSB: 032 721
Account No: 280 248
Reference: Ministry