

We are pleased to report that the Church's income covered its expenses again, in the year to December 2007, for the third year in a row. This was down to several new households signing up to the pledged giving scheme, and also to some much needed but unexpected one off donations. Thank you, so much, to all of you. We carried forward a surplus of £1,882 to the current year, which is a source of much hope. To break even again this year we are looking for just over **£15,000** in increases or one off donations. If you feel able to, at any time in the year, remember that you can make one off donations online by visiting the website at www.godalming.org.uk and clicking the CAF button (shown opposite).

Godalming Parish Church Stewardship Newsletter May 2008



The tax rate time bomb

In last year's budget, Gordon Brown announced that the basic rate of income tax would go down as from the start of this tax year. Although a popular measure amongst tax payers, it meant that the Church would be able to reclaim much less tax from the government via Gift Aid, so we were very concerned. However a last minute reprieve means that the effect on Gift Aid has been postponed. The relief felt by the charitable sector was almost audible. The Church of England alone stood to lose £8m per year from the measure. In our own parish, Gift Aid reclaims brought in £22,000 last year. Which just goes to show how important tax effective giving is.

Legacies

Our income never remains static. People move out of the area and others sadly die. Those who die may have been major financial supporters of the Church during their lifetime, but their financial contribution often ceases after their death, leaving a sudden hole in our income. This year we launched our legacy campaign. We have no accurate statistics but are led to believe that many have responded and added something to their will. If anyone hasn't acted yet and wants information on how to leave a legacy to the Church, please speak to Helen Goatley or one of the clergy. We have a group of legal experts now who will be able to advise.

Diocesan Programme

In the last year the Diocese of Guildford launched a stewardship network, the aim being to promote the importance and understanding of Christian Stewardship across the diocese and to promote the 10 elements of a 'Healthy Stewardship Parish'. You will be pleased to learn that St Peter and St Paul scored 7.5 out of 10 in the Health Check, compared to an average of 4.25. Not that we are complacent, as we have much to learn from other parishes.