

How to Respond

- You are invited to renew or begin your financial commitment to the parish of St Elsewhere's, Anytown by completing the enclosed response forms, whether you are intending to increase or maintain your current giving.
- Please complete the forms, sealing them in the envelopes provided. Take the envelopes, together with your special piece of jigsaw, to church between now and 22nd March 2009. All financial information is totally confidential and will only be seen by the Gift Aid Co-ordinator.
- If you need any help with the forms or need further information please contact either Graham Smith (tel: 55732) or Jill Knowles (tel: 59883)
- Once complete, please post your response forms through the slot on the special display board in church, and place your piece of jigsaw on the corresponding number on the board. The jigsaw piece is a sign of your belonging to St Elsewhere's, Anytown, so:

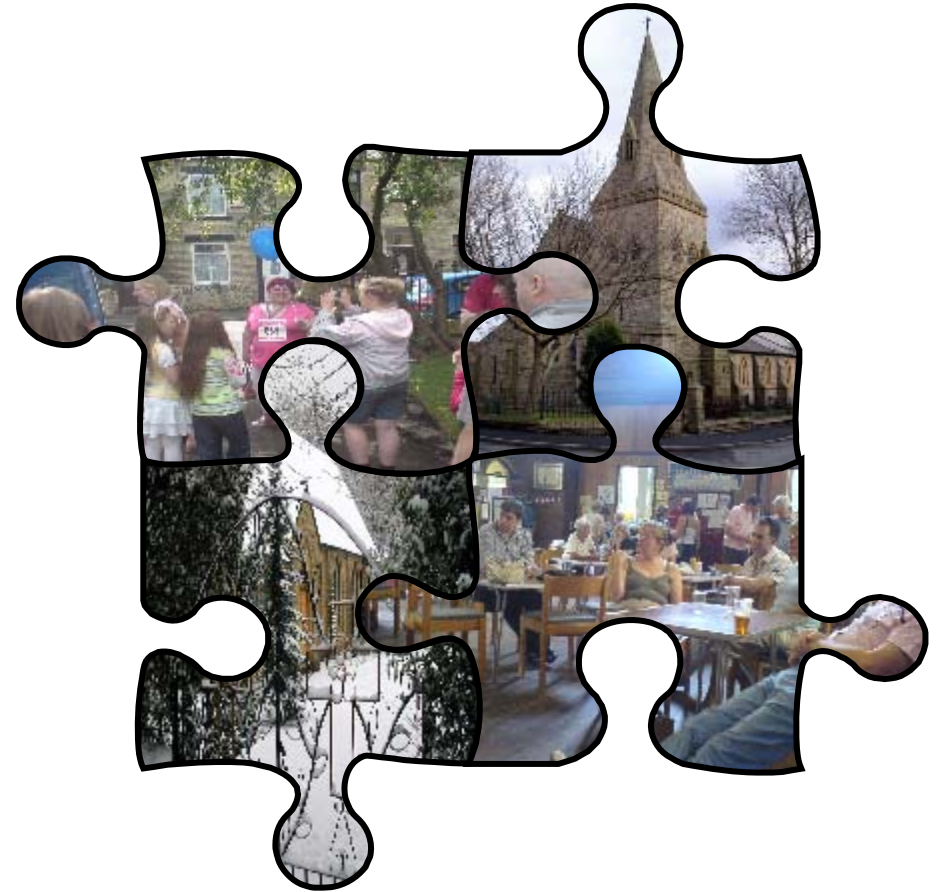


'Put Yourself in the Picture!'

All responses will be confidential.

Do please return them no later than **Sunday 22nd March 2009**

A special Service of Thanksgiving will be held in church on
Sunday 29th March



An invitation to reflect on how much you value belonging to your Church and to review your financial support and time commitment.

Saying thank you

The first thing we want to say is 'Thank you!'

Thank you for your involvement in and commitment to the life of this parish.

Thank you for all the time and energy and skill you give and thank you for your financial support. Without such generous giving we cannot survive, let alone develop and grow.

We know that many of you find it challenging, rewarding and enjoyable to be part of a loving community of faith. There are so many encouraging signs and there is so much to be thankful for in the life of our church. We thank God for your faith, love and service.



As you reflect on the information provided in this booklet, please ask yourself these questions:

- ◆ **Where does giving to God come in my financial priorities?**
- ◆ **Does my current level of giving express how much my faith in God and my church mean to me?**
- ◆ **Am I playing my part in financially supporting the life of my church?**
- ◆ **Do I feel comfortable with my weekly giving?**
- ◆ **Whilst we realise that these are difficult times economically, if the church is to meet all of its challenges, we must address the deficit in our finances.**
- ◆ **Scripture teaches the principle of proportional giving - giving a percentage of our income; so much for each £1.00 of our disposable income, (i.e. income after tax and N.I.) e.g. 2p per £1.00; 3p per £1.00**
The Church of England has urged us to aim to provide a basic standard of 5p per £1.00 i.e. 5%

"Each of us must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7

It may interest you to know that ...

- We have **68** people on the Electoral Roll
- On average, **48** adults and up to **12** children attend our church services each week
- **45** people / families give regularly through planned giving
- **5** planned givers contribute **28%** of this income, giving an average **£20** per week.
- **20** planned givers give **57%** of our planned giving, an average of **£10.35** per week
- **18** give **£3** or less per week
- In 2008 it cost, on average, **£11.60** per week per Electoral Roll member to run the church



As a church we aim to be available to the community in helping to develop spirituality and faith and in welcoming people for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

We also aim to serve the community as we are able, through our links with schools and by simply being there when it matters most in your life.

As the parish is in such a serious financial position, we ask you to prayerfully consider this request for increased planned giving and to make a positive response.

God's mission in our parish will involve work with children and young people, the community and the elderly but we can only do this when we can fully pay our way.

What's already happening at St Elsewhere's?

- A friendly welcome to all and a place where we meet with Christ through the Sacraments and in prayer with varying styles of worship, catering for people of all ages
- An attractive and historic church building which can be used for a variety of events
- A place for baptisms, marriages and funerals
- Established links with local schools
- A strong commitment to people needing support at times of illness or bereavement and outreach to people who are unable to come to church because of infirmity, including to visits to care homes
- A weekly club for older people
- A hall used for a variety of church and community activities
- Support for children and young people including Sunday School and preparation for Confirmation
- Fellowship with other churches
- Fellowship with the local Muslim community
- Support for local, national and world-wide charities
- A wide range of community events



What did it cost to run St Elsewhere's in 2008?

Parish Income	Annual	Weekly
Planned Giving & Tax Recovered <i>(Envelopes, standing orders and Gift Aid reclaim)</i>	£18,781	£361
Loose Collections	£3,857	£74
Parish Fees <i>(Weddings, funerals, etc.)</i>	£465	£9
Donations, Fundraising, etc.	£7,109	£137
Investment Income	£301	£6
TOTAL	£30,513	£587

SHORTFALL: £10,513

As you can see we did not manage to balance the books last year, even with the income from fundraising, which cannot be relied upon in future years. In 2009 the shortfall will certainly be more serious. We have, over recent years, reduced expenditure where possible but it is very clear that we must increase the amount we receive from regular planned giving and then, with God's grace, we can continue our mission from a secure base.

Parish Expenditure	Annual	Weekly
Housekeeping <i>(Water, heating, lighting, insurance, Council Tax, cleaning, repairs, etc.)</i>	£17,241	£332
Parish Share*	£14,202	£273
Working Costs <i>(Administration, worship requirements, fundraising, parish rooms costs)</i>	£9,583	£184
TOTAL	£41,026	£789

**Every parish is required to pay a Parish Share, which is a vital component of the income of the Diocese. This is assessed by a combination of anonymous income surveys and attendance figures. It is spent maintaining parish ministry and providing ministry in parishes where God's work could not happen without our financial support.*

We have not paid our Parish Share in full since 1999, which means that we are presently unable to access financial support in the form of grants from the Diocese.