



PARTNERSHIP NEWS NO.3

Ben's role across the Partnership

Working together in teams has underpinned and supported the growth at St John's across so many areas of church life in recent years. As we potentially move into a new phase of our partnership, this collaboration, and the benefits it brings, will be even more important.

One of the big benefits of working with people with different skills and experience is that often they can do things better and in a fraction of time. Consequently, our individual contributions are not always best measured in time as much as they are in the impact of our skill and knowledge.

When it comes to Ben's future role, as well as taking primary responsibility for St Michael's, we envisage the Partnership benefiting from the ongoing passion and skill he has in two areas of skill and experience.

Firstly, Ben has a gift in discipling others and using his theological training to resource and encourage personal and corporate bible study. Ben will take a leading role in developing new and existing midweek gatherings and online opportunities for learning such as '20 20'.

Secondly, Ben has been central to the development of much of our online worship and digital output. We envisage him taking a central role in helping both parishes to think through how we grow our digital output especially for the benefit of the house bound and care homes within our two parishes.

Your questions answered

In recent years St John's has made additional annual contributions over and above its Parish Share to support mission in the deanery (e.g. £3,652 in 2019). Will contributions of this nature now be discontinued?

We asked David, our Head of Stewardship, to address this.

As a PCC we have already opted not to pay over and above our Parish share, as we feel that our proposed support of St Michael's is a significant gesture of missional support in the Deanery. This is very much a question of one church helping another directly rather than it being a deanery-wide initiative, through both financial support and support in transplanting members of our congregation into St Michael's. The Diocese has already helped to some degree by declaring a Year of Jubilee, which frees St Michael's from its previous Parish Share debt, but the partnership is properly between our two churches and will be more powerful for being so.*

Read the steps of faith (blue box) to see what, together, we can do.

Your Partner in the Gospel

Giles

* Prior to the impact of the lockdown, St Michael's had no Parish Share debt.

A few simple **steps of faith** we can take:

Step 1. Pray. Ask God to show you his heart for his church and whether this partnership is part of his will and good purpose.

Step 2. Commit. Commit to ongoing prayer and to the ongoing giving of your time and energy and financial resources to whichever of our two churches you currently call home.

Step 3. Decide. You will be asked to give your blessing and support to this partnership at the APCMs in April. If we are not sufficiently behind this collectively then this is will not happen.

Step 4. Give and Go. Only a small and dedicated team with specific gifts and skills will go and only after careful shared discernment but could this be you? Secondly give. Everyone will be given a chance to give financially. Sometime after the APCMs there will be a chance to contribute towards an offering to 'prime the partnership pump'. Please consider how you might give to bless this vital outreach.

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP
YOU WOULD LIKE
ANSWERED PLEASE EMAIL:
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Answers will appear in
future editions of this
weekly bulletin.

