

Stewardship of our treasure

- God has put enough money in the pockets of Christians to do everything he expects of them.
- It's odd, in a church with people of great faith, to have financial problems.
- Giving is the thermometer of our love.
- Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.
- When giving to God, we are just taking our hands off what belongs to him.
- Stewardship involves the whole Church taking the whole gospel to the whole of the world, and to the whole of every person.
- Christian Stewardship can become a way of life, and lead to a meaningful personal relationship with God and the Holy Spirit.
- Christian Stewardship has got nothing to do with chance. It is about certainty, faith and faithfulness.
- Each new day is a gift from God and also an opportunity for further service in the name of Jesus Christ.
- A Christian Steward fulfils his or her responsibilities as God-given tasks, in a joyful response to Christ as Saviour and Lord.

Stewardship isn't about meeting budgets. It's more about opening our lives to God's Spirit. That's why stewardship and growth go together.

Stewardship is everything I do after I say 'I believe'.

3. TREASURE



Jesus told the disciples a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God." Luke 12:16-21

Money and treasure

We have all heard people say, "All the church seems to do is ask us for money." Probably that was right many years ago and many people thought the church would just go on some how or another and be there when they needed it.

Everyday we come into contact with money. We need money to survive, to eat, to clothe ourselves etc. The list is endless.

If the church is to be relevant in today's world it must become a "mission" church and it must have the necessary funds to do so. As committed Anglicans we are called to provide the necessary finances, not only to keep our parishes viable, but to also go into the world.

Good stewardship of our wealth, no matter how little we have, must mean that the offering we make is worthy and representative of what we have been given by God, and is the

grateful celebration of all that God has done in our lives. Every person will have a different offering, the main thing is that it comes from the heart and indicates the importance of God in our lives.

Stewardship is what we do with all we have, all we are and all we can become. It begins with an affirmation that we are children of God, that God gives us everything we are and have, and that we respond in gratitude by giving to God.

But it is so much more than just giving back to God. Stewardship is part of our spiritual journey because it is the way we live out our discipleship, the way we follow Jesus in all our life decisions.

Reflection

What are your most important possessions or treasure?

How can you use your treasure to build up the Kingdom of God?

Treasure in Heaven

A wealthy man lay on his deathbed. His entire life had been centered around money. As his life ebbed away, he presumed that in the afterlife, money would also be everything. So he gave orders that a purse filled with gold coins be placed inside his casket alongside his body. His last wish was carried out.

In the next world it took the bookkeepers a long time to find his name in any of the good books. In fact it took so long that he got very hungry and thirsty just waiting. He looked around and sure enough, he saw an

attractive eatery not far away. "Aha," he said to himself, "it's just like I thought. It's a good thing that I brought some money along with me."

His mouth was already watering as he approached the restaurant. But before he sat down to eat, he was told that the money he had brought along had no value now. In fact, only money that was of any value now was the money he had given away on earth.

The rich man dropped his head in deep thought, but could not remember having given any money away.... so now he had none.

