

'GIVING' @ ST CATHERINE'S

Giving at St Catherine's: Why **AT** not TO ?

*Very often when the accounts are on the agenda, the importance of a Stewardship Campaign or at least Stewardship awareness floats back to the top of various lists. Some of the associated activity has included language like - **planned giving / pledges / financial commitments / gift days** – and the focus is a financial one. In very many churches is lacking, a/the fuller or broader understanding that Stewardship includes also the planned giving of **time** and of **gifts / experience** we can share in the service of God and his church. So, Giving **AT** St C is to include all and any giving, not just financial which a TO would imply. Vocation or Volunteering is a culture we need to rediscover post-pandemic. Once such a culture exists, then any new arrivals will slot in more easily.*

For those of you who appreciate the theology, or an opportunity to reflect – you will know that on a variety of platforms including but not only the pulpit, I have stressed the link between Baptism and Vocation. The same of course can be said but in a more focused and immediate way about Confirmation and Vocation. The equivalent 'coming of age' stages in other faiths mark the candidates as being spiritually 'adults', and as such fully active and fully responsible. (When I was a school chaplain I was invited to attend the Bar/Bat Mitzvah of 13 year olds and these same youngsters then going on to lead services and to preach) Every Baptised Christian has a Vocation. When persons baptised are little people – then it is the role and duty of the parents and godparents to help the growing children discern their vocation. It is the role and duty of the wider church family to nurture those vocations in children and young people. This is done through encouragement but also through the confidence building that comes with being allowed to exercise gifts. This is what we promise at every baptism service.

For those of you who prefer a good story to theology – read through to the end of this document and there you might just find one.

Ways to engage practically:

Welcome to our Volunteering page

At St Catherine's we believe that every baptised Christian has a vocation.

We also believe that sharing time and experience and things we are good at are as important as sharing finances.

It is important that as part of our Safeguarding commitment that we practice 'Sustainable Volunteering' and that is easier to deliver if more people volunteer.

Experience tells us that those who volunteers often feel a greater sense of belonging.

Here are both current needs and also opportunities.

Broadly speaking there are TWO categories of volunteering

ROLE - those that require regular commitment like being an organist or on council or on welcome team or being a sacristan

SPRINGER - those that require an occasional time commitment either because it is an immediate need or because it is a one-off task

(The list is quite simply in alphabetical order and it finishes with a 'tale')

Chalice Assistants / Ministrants

- 'only' required to assist with distribution of communion specifically the wine

Training therefore (practical) includes only those things for that role

Experienced ministrants can train newbies

(Confirmation is required/ ER not/ Safeguarding C0/CDF)

Children and Young People Ministry

This has the history of a flourishing and well run Sunday School

Post Covid most of those children are now Tweens or older

Many of the established patterns of young people in church at festival times and young people taking the liturgy at some service all have fallen by the wayside

So this will start almost with a blank piece of paper

Early tasks to include:

=work with Chaplain and others to ease back into provision discerning what offers might best serve current families

=work with safeguarding team to resource volunteers (teachers)

=work with Chaplain (current and future)

=work with Comms Officer to communicate with parents

=work with webmaster for that part of website

(Confirmation is required/ ER required/ Safeguarding C0/C1/C2 and also full diocesan checks/ useful but not essential to be on Council)

Council members and Wardens

These are elected roles and there are details of these elsewhere on the website (who's who)

But please express an interest here

Everyone on Council has at least one area of responsibility – most are elsewhere on this list

Others currently include:

Wardens – these are responsible for more than any other person in a chaplaincy / church

Lay Chair – who jumps in when Chaplains are on holiday or off sick or at times when there isn't one

Secretary – deals not only with papers for meetings (agendas and minutes) but also all correspondence and as such works with Chaplain and Comms Officer and Webmaster as well as rest of Council....

Treasurer – keeps accounts but also keeps an overview of all things financial, facilitates 'financial giving' to make this easy for people regardless of what and when they give, there is admin too like issuing Spendenbescheinigung and writing Thank You letters....

Liturgy and Worship – working with Chaplain and Director of Music to offer a healthy and sustainable pattern of services across the liturgical calendar, they also take responsibility when there is no Chaplain to with Archdeacons and others in London to find locum clergy and/or meet needs among the lay people for some of the worship services

Diversities – different council members might be tasked to represent and/or to keep an overview on fair representation across genders and ethnicities and generations ...



(Baptism is required and Confirmation is preferred / ER required/ Safeguarding C0/C1 and CDF and /C2 and also full diocesan checks for Wardens)

Ecumenical Officer

This is a sizeable commitment so consider prayerfully
CAECG - Twice a year (March and September) there is a 24 hours away conference at which you will both represent St C and in turn take what you have learnt here back to St C
St C would appreciate it if you can finance this yourself (hotel plus travel)
Deanery Synod – the business end of this will happen at the CAECG in March each year plus paperwork via email and here too you will both represent St C and in turn take what you have learnt here back to St C
Ecumenical Officers have to be nominated and elected and that for a period of 3 years !
But please express an interest here
(Baptism required / ER required/ Safeguarding C0 and C1/CDF on Council as ex-officio)

Environmental Officer

This is new for us
Early tasks might include
=doing a church Carbon Footprint audit
=a search on comparable energy providers for Greener options
=working with AKs and also Rettet die Katharinenkirche on how to make buildings more Green
Further development might include
=resourcing the congregation
=working with webmaster for that part of the website
=working with Comms Officer to publicise events or opportunities
=to help Hospitality Team to use Greener alternatives at their events
=to assist all areas of church life with recycling
=to create (regular) opportunities for – Marketplace of PreviouslyLovedItems
=to work with Refugee Project and opportunities there to upcycle
=to resource the Young Peoples Ministry
(Baptism required / ER required / Safeguarding C0/C1 and CDF / useful but not essential to be on Council)

Fundraising Team

BC (before Covid) this included the two main fundraisers - the Annual Booksale and Annual Bazaar
Post Covid – more recent events have taken the shape of Open House Events (incl Books)



Tasks include:

=organising (often now via whatsapp groups) enough people and then the logistics events incl Open Church Events which include Booksales (late October / late April)
events can also include one-offs
=running those events within the values and guidelines common to all St C practice – welcome esp around new faces / visitors and safeguarding awareness esp around possible vulnerable people / food and more recently Covid safety esp awareness of dietary requirements (allergies/intolerances)
=work with Comms Officer around Publicity
=work with Chaplain to provide a Risk Assessment for each such occasion
=work with Hospitality Team
=work with Chaplain around Charity-Specific-Giving such as the Traditional Lessons and Carols and more recently the Kirchentag Evensong
(Baptism required / ER not/ Safeguarding C0/CDF – the Team Leader should have C1 at least)

Hospitality Team

BC (before Covid) this included Coffee Hour after Sunday services as well as catering at 2 types of events

- fundraisers such as the then Annual Booksale and Annual Bazaar
- special festival dates – Harvest / Pancakes / Patronal/ Lessons and Carols

Tasks include:

=organising (often now via whatsapp groups) enough people and then the logistics events incl Open Church Events which include Booksales (late October / late April)
events also include one-offs
=running those events within the values and guidelines common to all St C practice – welcome esp around new faces / visitors and safeguarding awareness esp around possible vulnerable people / food and more recently Covid safety esp awareness of dietary requirements (allergies/intolerances)
=work with Comms Officer around Publicity
=work with Chaplain to provide a Risk Assessment for each such occasion
(Baptism required / ER not/ Safeguarding C0/CDF – the Team Leader should have C1 at least)

Intercessions in Services

This can be offered both as a regular commitment say once a month.... and/or as a Springer Task – allowing you to be called on at short notice just because you happen to be there

Training will be available especially if new to this but also to refresh for those who have had a break

This would be suitable for young people to participate especially as part of a family leading

(Baptism required / ER not/ Safeguarding C0/CDF)

Mentors

One of the wonderful gifts of the pandemic is how people picked up the phone and/or formed whatsapp groups to make sure no one was left socially isolated.

Mentor – a young person / a confirmation candidate / an elderly person / a student recently arrived / newcomers.....

(Baptism required / ER not / Safeguarding C0 and C1 and CDF as a minimum)

Music-in-Worship Team

Here there are a number of options all of which welcome

You might play an instrument (voice) – this could add to worship especially at festival / special occasions

You might be good networker and thus help organise Scratch Choir for events such as our annual "Traditional Lessons and Carols" service – inviting via Communications Officer people to register an interest then organising rehearsal times all the while liaising with the Director of Music about programme and production of programme....

(Baptism required ideally Confirmation / ER not/ Safeguarding C0/ ideally C1 and CDF)

Press Officer

The need for this is rare – but it is important. Fluency in spoken and written German and English is a must but can be achieved by a 2-person team on this.

There is some training (Diocesan) available for this.

Publicity

Use any publishing software to produce fliers / banners/ posters/ cards.....

Either to update current stock

Or as requested by Chaplain and/or refugee project and/or communications officer Quality for both printing and for website posting

(Baptism preferred but not essential / ER not / Safeguarding C0 / CDF)

Reading in Services

This can be offered both as a regular commitment say once a month....

and/or as a Springer Task – allowing you to be called on at short notice just because you happen to be there

Training will be available especially if new to this but also to refresh for those who have had a break

Opportunities have been given at certain services in the past to allow young people to read (all the bible readings in 18 months of online services were recorded by young people)

(Baptism required / ER not/ Safeguarding C0/CDF)

Sacristans – have a number of duties and we don't have any @St C

Set up for communion

Clear up after communion including washing up vessels and washing any linens when required

Keeping tabs on stock – and organising ordering what is running out

- wafers
- wine
- linens
- candles

Keeping tabs on the everything with liturgical colours – altar frontal / communion set / robes (if priest don't use their own)

Keeping tabs on the service book – that all info is complete (so Wardens can do annual returns)

Ideally there is a team who delivers this with one person who oversees and trains.... except for the overview person, part of this (set up/clear up) is a perfect job for teenagers !!

(Baptism required ideally Confirmation / ER not/ Safeguarding C0 and Team leader also C1 /CDF)

Safeguarding Officer (and team)

It is a requirement to have an appointed officer who serves on Council and is also the Face of Safeguarding

In the vacancy the current Chaplain has split the tasks into more manageable chunks and thus creating a team which may actually be a better model in accountability terms

(Baptism required for all / ER required for Job4 / Safeguarding C0/C1 and CDF for Jobs123 and C2 for Job4)

Job1 – Admin

Training will be given for this role by Chaplain

=keep the log of all checks and all training

=send reminders to those who need to update any of these including the links (online) to that training



=if help is needed to do the training find someone who can buddy up (a Springer Task)

=remind council of significant gaps

Job2 – Admin

Training will be given for this role by Chaplain

=accompany the few who need diocesan checks through what can be a drawn out and complex process

(all clergy / Safeguarding Officer / Team Leader of Young People Ministry / Team Leader of Refugee Project if not themselves a refugee / Wardens)

Job3 – Admin

Training will be given for this role by Chaplain

=process all newsletters and other info arriving from the London safeguarding office and summarise into working docs for Council

this needs to be someone who is fluent in written english

Job4 – Safeguarding Officer

Training will be given for this role by Diocese (zoom)

=be visible at many if not most church events including services

=understand the concept and the reality of confidentiality

=be available for those with safeguarding questions as well as concerns

=meet with rest of team for updates and a clear overview

=liaise with webmaster about the 'Keeping You Safe' part of the website

Technical Support

This will mostly be a Springer Task – usually to resolve an issue

Areas of work

- the office Mac in the Anglican Centre
- soft/hardware used by the Chaplain at home
- advice / support for Webmaster and Communications Officer

(Baptism required / ER not required/ Safeguarding C0 and CDF)

Welcome Team

BC (before Covid) there was a team of 3 regulars plus a group of teens who did the tidy up after the services

Training can be given but will mostly be achieved by doing

Tasks include:

=Making people feel welcome not only as they arrive but throughout the service

(you can see from the back of church if someone is struggling to find a page...)

=Connect new people ideally on their first visit

=Giving out all that is needed for service



=Disability might mean a large print version of service order / hymn book

Disability might include getting ramp out

Disability might include telling the clergy the microphone isn't working well

=Financial giving – this includes both the QR code for online giving and a plate for retiring collection

=Attendance numbers 16+/16-

=Squaring everything away at the end – everything has a place

=Keep yourself ready to answer questions incl about Anglicanism / Church of England (plenty on website)

Ideally there is a team who delivers this with one person who oversees and trains...

except for the overview person, this is a perfect job for teenagers to join in with !!

(Baptism required / ER not/ Safeguarding C0/CDF – the Team Leader should have C1 at least)

Worship Leaders (non sacramental services)

These include Evensong and Services of the Word (morning or evening)

Training is given

Evensong has been trialled x2 – requirements here incl

Musical capability + spiritual maturity + understanding / appreciation of liturgy

(no requirement or indeed authorisation to 'preach' – something here will be provided by clergy either a sermon to read out or some reflection prompts)

Further developments await Council decisions

There is a diocesan requirement for training also

(Baptism and ideally Confirmation required / ER required/ Safeguarding C0 and C1/CDF)

A Tale:

The Indian poet Tagore tells the story of a beggar who sees a golden carriage approaching from afar. Realising that it is the carriage of the king, the beggar prays for riches. This, he believes, is the greatest opportunity of his life.

Sure enough, the carriage stops where the beggar stands and the king climbs out with a smile. But then, the strangest thing happens. The king stretches out his empty hand and asks the beggar 'What have you to give me ?'

Confused and uncertain, the beggar reaches into his bag and takes out a single grain of corn – but only one, and the smallest. Is this a joke ? Slowly, he places it in the king's palm.

At the end of the day, when the beggar empties his bag on the floor, he is surprised to discover a single grain of pure gold – but only one, and the smallest.

'I bitterly wept' the beggar said 'and wished that I had the heart to give my all.'