

**Time, Talents and Treasures**  
**Week One**

Whenever we read the Gospel's, we realise how Jesus was always willing to give others his time.

As Christians, we are each called, through our one baptism, to build up the Kingdom of God and to share all that we have with others, just as Jesus did.

So, how do we, as individuals and as a community do that?

We do it, by following in Jesus' footsteps; living our lives as Jesus did; giving of our time, sharing our talents and helping others through the treasures we have been blessed with.

As individuals and families, we recognised that we are all called to be stewards in our world. We are also called to be stewards in Church. At present, the Diocese of East Anglia has a fairly good supply of priests... sadly many other dioceses are not as blessed as we are. But in the future, priests will be in shorter supply, and each parish needs volunteers to help its work to continue, so that they may grow and flourish as we all work to build up the Kingdom here on earth.

Each and every one of us has time... some may have more spare time than others.

Each of us has talents to share with others... talents that can be shared with the whole community in order to building up God's Kingdom.

Each of us has treasure... and often it is through the time we spend with others, and the sharing of our talents, that we realise how we can share more of our treasure for the good of our parish.

We are being asked, through a diocesan wide initiative, to re-examine our Christian Stewardship and to look at how we are engaged with our parish life. God has bestowed upon each of us amazing gifts...which we need to be grateful for...we need to tend them in a responsible way and be prepared to account for how we used and shared them with others.

Over the next few weeks, we are all asked to explore how each one of us can re-commit our blessings of time, talent and treasure to our parish.

This is your parish! As priests, Fr. Paul and I (Fr. Peter and I), like all priests before us, came...but we will also go. Whilst we are here we are very much a part of the parish, but you, each and every one of you, are the heart and soul of the parish, and you remain... for this is your parish, your church, and your community.

So, let us reflect and pray together over the next three weekends about how each one of us may be able to offer more of our time, share more of our talents and give more of our treasures for the increase and building up of God's Kingdom, with Christ as our example and our Lord.

### **Pause**

You will shortly be handed a newsletter entitled 'Faithful Stewards of God's Gifts'. Please read this carefully when you go home.

Next week, we shall hear from a member of our finance committee who will speak to you in more detail about our Parish finances in the context of our Parish vision.

Finally, in two weeks' time, we will ask everyone, after prayer and careful discernment, to renew their commitment of Time, Talents and Treasure to our Parish.

Volunteers and members of the Parish finance committee will be available at the back of the Church today, after Mass, to answer any questions you may have. You will also find my contact details on the back of the newsletters should you wish to contact me directly.