



Newsletter

AUTUMN 2017

God's Promises

AS LONG AS THE EARTH ENDURES,
SEEDTIME AND HARVEST,
COLD AND HEAT,
SUMMER AND WINTER,
DAY AND NIGHT WILL NEVER CEASE



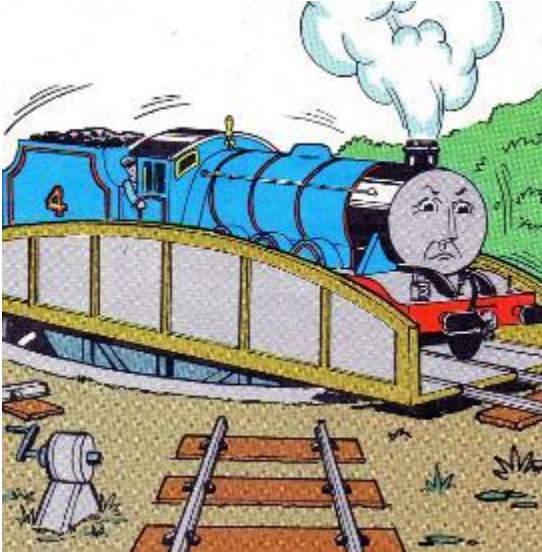
Genesis 8, Verse 22



Pastor's Page

ALL CHANGE!

Like many of us in our Fellowship, I love steam trains. We have a house in Bewdley in Worcestershire, one of the stops on the beautiful Severn Valley Railway which runs from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth. The sights, sounds and smells of these old engines transport us back to a golden, bygone era of steam travel. Every year they used to have, in common I am sure with other steam railways, Thomas the Tank weekends when the engines would sport the faces of this beloved fictional character and his friends. Perhaps the love of steam engines for some today even derives from their fascination with the stories of Thomas the Tank Engine (now called Thomas and Friends) written over seventy years ago by the Anglican vicar, Rev Wilbert Awdry for his two-year-old son. The stories have always been seen to uphold the traditional values of friendship, loyalty and resilience. Today, however, in certain quarters of social media, they are reviled as



nasty, negatively competitive, sexist and a bad example. How times change!

But change we must. Things do move on. What was right for a certain point of time is not necessarily right for all time. When passengers get to the end of a train line, the shout goes up, 'ALL CHANGE' and everyone has to leave that particular train because it is not going any further and then get on another one. This is the same in the Christian life. 2 Corinthians 5:17 encourages us

saying 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new has come!' Or as the NLT puts it, 'This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun.' The word repentance in the Bible means to

turn – to turn from our old, self-centred and self-absorbed way of life to the new Christ-centred, lived-for-others-life that God calls us into.

We can though be somewhat fearful of change rather than embrace it wholeheartedly. We like things to stay the same. We like it that way because that is what we are used to. We feel more comfortable and safe. Catching a different train can be scary. In the Christian life, we can find ourselves spiritually speaking at a station waiting for a new train to take us in the direction God wants us to go. We wait and then a train rolls into the station. Should we get on it? Is it safe? Can we be sure that it is going where we want to go? Will we like where it takes us? So we hesitate. We don't get on and the train leaves the station without us. So there we are waiting again. Will there be another train or have we missed our opportunity? May we not miss the opportunities God is placing before us as individuals and as a church. Let us not hesitate but get on the train when it comes into the station. You never know, according to God's timetable, it might be the last one.



**Therefore, if anyone
is in Christ,
the new creation has come:
The old has gone,
the new is here!**
2 Corinthians 5:17



Editor's Ramblings

ACHEIVEMENTS

Parents are probably saying the same today as they were in my day, work hard at school so that you can get a good job, earn some money and get on and achieve something in your life.

I didn't, school wasn't my thing, I had to go. Unfortunately war broke out and my 'Teens' life education suffered and much of the time was spent in the dug out. I left school at fourteen, my friend's father offered me a job in a small printing factory in South Wimbledon. But no apprenticeship. An elderly member of the staff gave me names of companies to write to. Answers all 'No'.

Printing was a 'closed shop', you could only get in if a close relative worked there. One last letter came with an offer of an interview. I was offered the job of a copy holder and after 10 months I achieved what I came for, a 7 year apprenticeship, which set me up with a career for life. For those of you who know me the rest is history.

We strive after many things in life, achieving many but often very disappointed! But that's life.

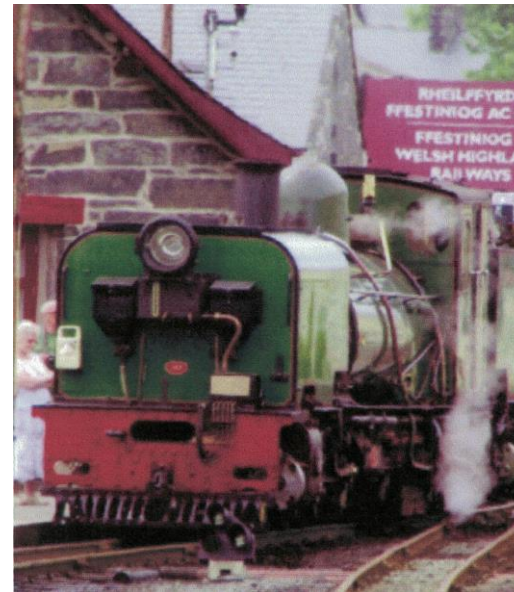
Sometimes we have to realise that some things may not be achievable.

Somebody has already mentioned railways. We love Wales and have done the Little Trains of Wales many times. This year was different and we achieved something I didn't think would happen in my lifetime.

The day started at 9-15 am, the coach left our hotel at Caemarvon for Llandudno to board the 10-08 Welsh National Railway journey to Blaenau Ffestiniog. We arrived at 11-25 am, crossed the track to join the 11-35 am Ffestiniog Railway narrow gauge train to Portmadog, a 1 hour 50 minute journey through the Welsh countryside, arriving at 12-45 pm.

The highlight and what we thought wasn't to be achievable is about to come true. A 2 hour 10 minute trip -the complete journey to Caemarvon, you can do it on the Welsh Highland Railway, through the glorious Snowdonia countryside. We left Portmadog at 15-40 pm and arrived at 17-50 pm. We've done another achievement.

The coach was waiting to take us back to the hotel and the sun shone all the way!





August, a time to reflect and maybe count your blessings.

For those who have been on holiday welcome back and we hope you had a really good relaxing time.

The church hasn't been completely asleep, four weeks of prayer. Thanks to everybody who supported this. Thanks to Sohan I managed to share with the last one.

Thursday Bible study continued most weeks, thanks to Linda. We will be having a two week break in September when Linda will be having a well-earned holiday.

Our thanks also to the three people who stepped in and played the music for us while Eric, Ruth and Stephen enjoyed their holiday in Scotland.

Fellowship News

Continue to pray for Eileen Webber, Ruth Collyer, Veronica Cooke, Mick and Rita and Eileen and Derek.

On the Move

Judy is hoping to move into a new house in Knaphill.

Mick and Rita are moving back to Yorkshire at the end of October. Watch the weekly News Sheet for further details.



Come you thankful people come to our HARVEST CELEBRATIONS on Sunday September 24th 11 am

Please add your names to the list at the back of the church if you want to stay for the lunch

Mission

Your prayers for the work of



BANGLADESH
Exploring faith

EGYPT
Building bridges on-line

AFRICA
Refreshing hope on the radio

CENTRAL ASIA
Bible stories for everyday living



- Swaziland is a small, land locked country in southern Africa
- 1.2 million people live here - roughly the same as the city of Birmingham
- Around 85% of people are Christian
- 75% of the population are subsistence farmers
- A third of people live on less than £1 a day
- Has the lowest life expectancy in the world due to high rates of HIV
- More than a quarter of Almost a quarter of children under 17 are orphans



October	8th	Lisa Bates	A very happy birthday to all these folk
November	13th	Rev Jim Binney	
	16th	Sohan Singh	
	18th	Derek Byde	

I would be very pleased to introduce anyone interested in this good work. Any amount, large or small, will be well used in BMS health and care outreach. Thank you, Margaret.

Malawi

This was brought to our attention some years ago now when we began sending mosquito nets to this country. This has proved to be a blessing, both to them, and us, as we collect our small change etc. in this cause.

Over recent months this small African state has been featuring in prayer magazines such as Tear Fund, and others, as they suffered drought and flooding in different areas of the country. Health clinics suffer from lack of facilities to treat patients. Candles are often used to give "light" when operations are needed.

God drew us to help this poor country with our nets. Can we please pray that the people will now receive better general health care.

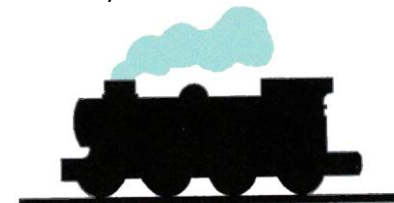
Margaret

'IF' by Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head When all about you are losing theirs
 If you can meet with triumph and disaster
 And treat these too imposters just the same
 Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it
 And - which is more - you'll be a man my son

The Spiritual Railway

The Line to heaven by Christ was made
 With heavenly truth the Rails were laid.
 From Earth to Heaven the Line extends,
 To Life Eternal where it ends.
 Repentance is the Station then
 Where Passengers are taken in.
 No Fee for them is there to pay.
 God's Word is the first Engineer;
 It points the way to Heaven so dear.
 Through tunnels dark and dreary here
 It does the way to Glory steer.
 God's Love the Fire, his Truth the Steam,
 Which drives the Engine and the Train.
 All you who would to Glory ride
 Must come to Christ, in him abide.
 In First and Second and Third Class,
 Repentance, Faith and Holiness,
 You must the way to Glory gain
 Or you with Christ will not remain.
 Come then, poor Sinners, now's the time
 At any Station on the Line.
 If you'll repent and turn from sin,
 The Train will stop and take you in.
 Ely Cathedral, Tombstone in South Porch





IT'S SHOEBOX TIME AGAIN!



It's time to dust off the Christmas wrapping paper, find some empty shoeboxes and start filling them with gifts for a child who may not receive anything else this Christmas. OCC "Ready to go" boxes (which don't need wrapping) will soon be available at the back of the Church for 50p each, together with this year's leaflet on what to put in (and what not to put in) your box.

Regular "Shoeborders" will notice that the suggested donation has gone up to £5 per box. This is quite an increase over the last few years and Operation Christmas Child have given information on how the donations are used and how vital they are to enable the whole Operation to go ahead. It is only a 'suggested' donation - please do not feel obliged to give this much for each box you donate but if you can it would be very much appreciated.

Processing boxes:

Local volunteer teams around the UK run over 100 processing centres to check, carton and prepare each shoebox for export. Sometimes processing premises are offered free of charge or at discounted rates, but it's right to pay other essential costs for safety equipment, heat, electricity and other services. Vans also need to be hired to collect the shoeboxes from the various collection points and deliver them to the processing centres.

Shipping to 17 countries:

UK Shoebox gifts are transported by lorry to Eastern Europe or by ship to Africa and Central Asia. The costs include transportation, buying shipping containers (around £9,000 each!) and customs clearance. In 2016, donations enabled 65 lorries and 30 containers to successfully export over 850,000 shoeboxes to 17 countries from the UK.



Training Local Churches and Project Materials:

Long before the shoeboxes arrive, local volunteer teams train church and community leaders who want to share God's love with children in need. Over 100 teams of volunteers equip more than 9,000 churches and groups using Ministry Partner Guides. This 36 page resource helps partners lead safe, well-organised distributions and also outlines the story of Jesus in colourful pictures. Wherever they decide it is appropriate, partners use these to tell the children about

Jesus in a loving way that respects local culture. Where possible, children are also offered "The Greatest Gift" an exciting Bible-story booklet written in their own language.



The above process has been tried, tested and amended where necessary over many years now and ensures that the whole operation, from start to finish, is run to the highest possible standards and in a way that is honouring to God – but this doesn't come cheap and costs are rising all the time!

If you are unable to get out-and-about anymore or don't feel up to doing a Shoebox (or if it simply isn't your thing!) there are other ways in which you can still be an important part of Operation Christmas Child. Please speak to Ruth Moore or Linda Parsons or check out the display which will be appearing at the back of the Church.

The local area launch event is taking place at Millmead Baptist Church, Guildford on Monday 25th September at 7pm. It is a great evening, open to everyone, when you can find out more about the actual distributions, get ideas for your boxes and meet other keen "Shoeborders".

"It is difficult for one person to change the world, but you can change the world for one person"

Ruth's Page

OK so it's time to find out how much you know about the Disciples of Jesus. See how many questions you can answer before checking the answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Name the 12 Apostles.
2. Who was the thirteenth Apostle, succeeding Judas Iscariot?
3. Who brought Nathanael to Jesus?
4. Which Apostles were the sons of Zebedee?
5. Which Apostle brought to Jesus the boy with loaves and fishes?
6. Which Apostles did Jesus send out to make preparations for the Passover Feast?
7. Which Apostles were Fishermen?
8. Which Apostle criticized the woman who anointed Jesus?
9. How many swords did Jesus say were enough for the Apostles to have?
10. Which Apostle said to Jesus "My Lord and my God?"
11. Which Apostles were known as the "sons of thunder"?
12. Who was the only Apostle who was definitely married?
13. Which Apostles did Jesus say he would make into fishers of men?
14. Which Apostles were present at the raising of Jairus's daughter?
15. Which Apostle had Jesus as a guest at a meal with many tax collectors?
16. Which Apostle expressed dismay over how to feed the five thousand?
17. To which Apostle did Jesus say "Feed my lambs?"
18. Who was absent when the risen Jesus appeared to the Apostles?
19. Which Apostle preached at Pentecost?
20. Who was the first Apostle to be martyred?

1. Simon Peter, Andrew, John, James (brother of John), Philip, Bartholomew (Nathanael), Matthew (Levi), Thomas, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas Iscariot; (Mark 3:16-19); 2. Matthias (Acts 1:23-26); 3. Philip (John 1:43-47); 4. James and John (Luke 5:10-11); 5. Andrew (John 6:8-9); 6. Peter and John (Luke 22:7-13); 7. Peter, Andrew James & John (Luke 5:1-10); 8. Judas Iscariot (John 12:3-5); 9. Two – although they had rather missed the point he was trying to make! (Luke 22:36-38); 10. Thomas (John 20:28); 11. James & John (Mark 3:17); 12. Peter (Mark 1:30); 13. Andrew and Peter (Mark 1:16-18); 14. Peter, James & John (Mark 5:37); 15. Matthew (Luke 5:29); 16. Philip (John 6:5-7); 17. Peter (John 21:15-19); 18. Thomas (John 20:24); 19. Peter (Acts 2:14); 20. James (brother of John) (Acts 12:1-2).

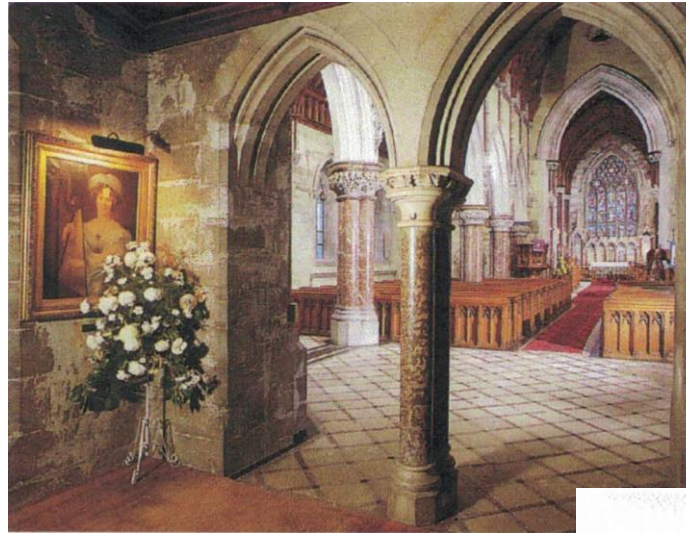
A Surprise visit

On our way to our holiday hotel in Wales we passed THE MARBLE CHURCH. The driver said he would take us to see it if there was time on the way back from the holiday. We reminded him that the itinerary said we weren't coming back this way. So at the next exit he turned his coach around and took us back to see this beautiful church.

INTRODUCTION When it was first built St. Margaret's Church, Bodelwyddan was then referred to as the "Pearl of the vale", but nowadays it is more popularly known as the "Marble Church" on account of the varieties of marble used in its interior construction.

This finely ornate church took just over four years to build and the total cost was £60,000.

There is an amazing richness of design about the church and some of the carving could not be equalled today.



soldiers in the churchyard. Over the years rumours grew that they had been court-martialled and shot for mutiny following riots. However, thanks to the efforts of Mr. J.P. Kent QC of Toronto these rumours can be dispelled.

After much research with the Canadian government and the War Graves Commission it is thought they had died in the hospital by natural causes, such as Influenza and Pneumonia.

On Armistice Sunday, 12th November, We will remember them



In the North East of the church yard is the grave of Elizabeth Jones, the mother of Sir H.M. Stanley, the famous explorer and in the South are 117 war graves, 83 Canadian and 34 British.

Until 1975 various regiments had been stationed at Kimmel Park Military Camp in the parish and stationed in the camp during the year 1918 to 1919 was number 9 Canadian Hospital.

Questions are often asked about the graves of the Canadian





How much do you know about how Harvest is celebrated around the world?

Harvest is celebrated in many different ways around of the world and below are just a few of them. Whatever the country or culture there are many common themes - the spirit of thanksgiving, the love of family, the value of hard work and the appreciation of the land and celestial powers are found in most of the celebrations.

Chuseok (Korea) is a major festival with a three-day holiday celebrated around the Autumn Equinox when Koreans visit their ancestral hometowns and share a feast of traditional food and rice wines. Families take this time to thank their ancestors for the fruits of their labour.

Pongal (India) falls in mid-January and signals the end of the traditional farming season in Southern India (Tamil Nadu). The Pongal festival lasts for four days and in Hindu temples bells, drums, clarinets and conch shells herald its start. To symbolise a bountiful harvest, rice is cooked in new pots until they boil over.

Homowo Yam Festival (Ghana) falls in August at the end of the rainy season. The Ga people travelled for many years before reaching the west coast of Africa where they now live. Along the way they experienced famine, but because they helped each other, they survived. Later when their harvests were bountiful, they held a feast at which they jeered at the hunger and hard times that had plagued them. This was the first Homowo (which means "hooting at hunger").

Fiesta Nacional de la Vendimia (Argentina) is a 'Festival of Grapes' which begins in January in various locations around the Mendoza Province and ends up on the first Saturday in March in the city of Mendoza. The celebrations include folklore festivals, religious ceremonies to bless the grapes, crowning of the Reina Nacional de la Vendimia, (National Vendimia Queen) sports events, a large firework display, and lots of wine and merriment.

Crop Over (Barbados) is a traditional harvest festival that had its early beginnings on the sugar cane plantations during the colonial period. The "crop over" tradition began in 1688 and featured singing, dancing and accompaniment by noisy instruments! Other traditions included climbing a greased pole, feasting and drinking competitions.

Erntedanktag & Oktoberfest (Germany). The Erntedankfest is a rural, religious celebration usually celebrated on the first Sunday in October. It is devoted to the shepherds and cowherds returning from the mountains. Their animals would be covered with flowers and the villagers would put on their national costumes to welcome the procession. Peasants used to break the first straws of hay brought into the barns saying, "This is food for the dead." A "harvest crown" or Erntekrone was formed of ears of grain, flowers and fruit and was taken to church in solemn procession. In the grape-growing regions of Germany, the end of the grape harvest is celebrated with the Oktoberfest, which is officially opened when the Lord Mayor taps the first barrel of beer. A large parade of colourfully decorated brewers' drays and magnificent floats brings the festivities to an exciting climax on the first Sunday of October.

Niname Sai (Japan) is a very important Shinto ceremony which is usually crowned by the celebration of Ki matsuri (autumn festival) where Buddhists assemble at various shrines to offer their thanksgiving to Kami for the bumper rice harvest. The 'Celebration of the First Taste' is used as a symbol of Japanese gratitude for everything they receive from nature. Lemniscate (a knot connecting the present and the universe) is often used to represent the interaction between humanity and nature.

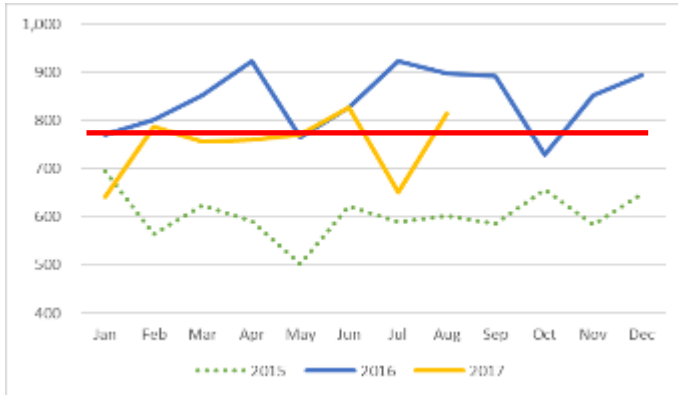
Hasyl Bayramy (Turkmenistan) is held on the last Sunday in November and is one of the oldest folk festivals in Turkmenistan to celebrate the new harvest celebrating the end of the season of agricultural works and cotton harvesting and is a cheerful and jolly festival. Exhibitions of agricultural products and modern agricultural technology are annually organized on the festival, along with meetings, contests, competitions, free concerts, etc. Celebration of Hasyl Bayramy culminates in a traditional solemn award ceremony of the distinguished farmers, agricultural experts and scientists. Traditional racing of the Akhal-Teke horses is also organized on Hasyl Bayramy and it attracts attention of all Turkmen. These horses are mostly bred in Turkmenistan and they are its national emblem. Turkmen people are proud of endurance of these horses and their distinctive metallic sheen.

From The Treasurer's Calculator

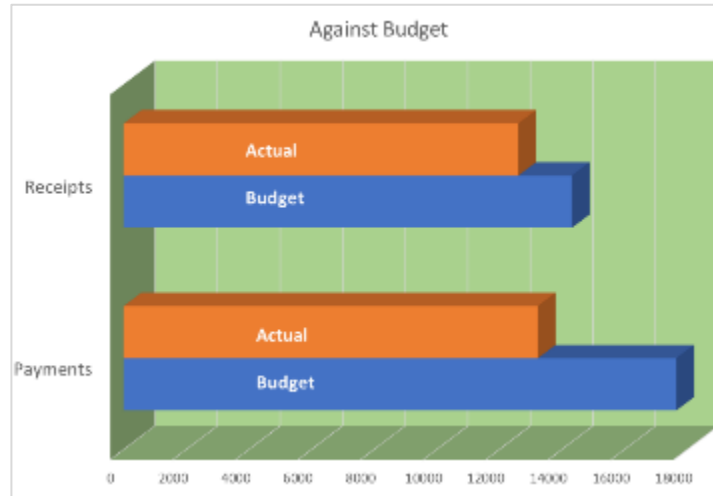
If you're reading this before the service on 10th, then it's a sneak preview... If you're reading it at home later, then use these thoughts to reflect on the meeting and all that was discussed.

Church Finances are a difficult topic. To most people they're just something that happens; isn't that the Treasurer's problem?

But stop and ask yourself what makes up the church's finances? Almost nothing the church does these days can be done without money. Of course there is the time that you contribute in serving the Lord, free labour as it were, but almost everything else has to be paid for. So you could look at the Church finances as a record of what we do. If we do more we spend more, if we do less we spend less. Simples! Right now we're spending less...

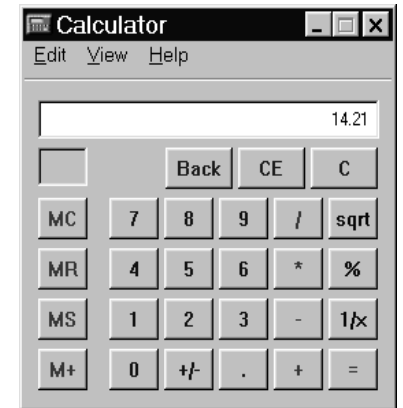


up with a weekly target offering. That's how we ended up with £833 this year – the red line on the graph.



So we construct a budget initially that reflects "steady-state". What does it cost to keep the church ticking over week by week. We add an amount to allow us to run events, campaigns etc, then simply divide it by 52 to end

Net effect? Right now we're spending less, so the lower giving is not affecting us longer-term. But now reflect back on the discussions in the church meeting? If we do more, we need to fund more. "More" includes your non-monetary giving as well as hard cash - your time, the use of your possessions. So again I end with: Keep praying, and ask God to speak to you about how you can give, not only in financial terms, but also in your overall commitment to the His Church - membership, time, skills, gifts - so you can play the part God is planning for you in the unfolding of His vision here.



Eric

Our recent offering figures...Thank you.

	Sep '16	Oct '16	Nov '16	Dec '16	2016	Jan '17	Feb '17	YTD
Actual	£731	£768	£692	£911	£ 808	£619	£757	£681
Target	£813	£813	£813	£ 813	£ 813	£833	£833	£ 833