



GIFTS GALORE!



God gives each one of us the ability to share in what he himself loves doing - doing good and bringing blessing to others. This is what all our different gifts and talents are for. No-one need or should sit on the edge as a spectator. We all bring something to the party. We express what we're about at St Nicolas as 'sharing the life of Jesus today'. Our passion is to introduce people to Jesus and to support those who want to follow him. This is the basic direction we're going in and which all our activities as a church are intended to take forward...

St Nicolas Church Office, West Mills,
Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5HG
Telephone: 01635 47018
Pastoral Care Line: 01635 529783
Email: office@st-nicolas-newbury.org
Website: www.st-nicolas-newbury.org

From time to time it's good to match the gifts we have with the needs that there are and build bridges between the two. Many members of the church are already fully committed. But maybe you've joined us only recently and are looking for ways to get stuck in. Or maybe you've been doing something for a while and feel that things have changed and it's time to explore something else.

The purpose of this sheet is to introduce some of the different aspects of what goes on at St Nicolas and so get you thinking and praying about what you might like to offer. Here are a couple of passages which set out the Bible's perspective on this.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

(Romans 12:6-8)

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever.

(1 Peter 4:8-11)

So... What has God given you to share with others? What interests you? What are you good at? What gives you a buzz? What are you passionate about? What do you like to see being done well? Here's a list of the sort of things that go on to start you off. Feel free to add your own unique contribution!

accompanying people to hospital • arranging flowers • arranging music • befriending baptism families • bringing someone to church in your car • caring for people who have lost loved ones • cooking and serving food • counting money • designing and maintaining websites • designing and producing publicity materials • engaging with people you don't know • explaining things to people • getting the church ready for services • giving talks which explain the Bible's message • helping other people to faith • helping others get the best out of Christian literature and resources • helping people with problems • helping staff a creche for young children • helping to administer holy communion • helping with administration • helping with spring cleaning • keeping in touch with people • leading a home group • leading intercessions • leading worship • locking up after church and hall hirings • maintaining buildings • offering hospitality • operating the sound desk and projector • painting and decorating • pastoring a home group • persuading photocopiers to work • planning events and activities • playing a musical instrument • plumbing • preparing parents who are having their children baptised • reading the Bible in services • restoring and repairing church textiles • ringing the church bells • serving as a member of the church council or deanery synod • serving coffee between services • singing • supporting missionaries in other parts of the world • supporting older people • supporting people by praying with them • tending a garden • using a needle and thread • using computers and gadgets • using drama or dance in worship • visiting people in their homes • welcoming people to church on Sundays • working with figures and spreadsheets • working with people to strengthen marriage and family life • working with teenagers • working with young children

Keen to take it from here? Have a chat with a minister or someone you know who is already involved in what you're interested in. Or fill in your details on one of the yellow 'Welcome to St Nicolas' cards and we'll get back to you. My experience of church life is that God always gives us the people with the necessary gifts to do what he wants us to do. Join me in praying that this will continue to be true. And, where appropriate, be the answer to your own prayer! Thank you.

David Stone, Rector