

OFFERTORY COLLECTION for 20th May 2018 amounted to £953. Thank you for your generosity.

A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE – Mission

Trinity Sunday

Paul reminds us of something we can so easily forget or easily take for granted. We are sons and daughters of the Father, we are brothers and sisters in Christ, all through the moving and the outpouring of the Spirit into our hearts. As this Sunday celebrates the community of life and love that is Father, Son, and Spirit, we celebrate what we are ourselves are drawn into... into God's life and into God's love. Our mission, then, is a mission into communion and our outreach towards others with good news is to draw them to know themselves loved, valued, wanted and worthwhile because God seeks to be Abba, Father to all his children. May there be something about the way we live this week that reveals we are our Fathers children. May that witness reveal his love and his call to be loved to those we encounter during the week ahead.

Please follow the links below to find interesting and useful resources:

Videos – A Year of St Mark: <https://cliftondiocese.com/diocese/future-full-hope/a-year-with-st-mark/>

For more information visit the Diocesan website:

<http://www.cliftondiocese.com/presentation-year-mission-resource-clifton-cathedral-29-november/>



BAPTISM: If you are seeking Baptism for your child, at Our Lady's, we prepare parents and Godparents over four sessions.

Details of Baptism Courses during 2018: * 9th Sept / 16th Sept / 23rd Sept / 30th Sept * **Please phone or email the Parish Office to register for the course, to arrange a date for the baptism and to obtain a baptism application form.** Telephone: 01452 713254 Email: churchdown.ourlady@cliftondiocese.com

Our next course starts 9th Sept. If you think this might be something you would like to get involved in, why not come along and see what it is all about?

If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Wadley via the parish office.

Diocesan Day for the diocesan year of mission: At St Brendan's Sixth Form College on **Saturday 30 June** -It starts 10.15 am and concludes at 3.30 pm with Mass. Everyone is welcome.

PUBLICATIONS Bible Alive, June issue £2:50, My Day By Day, June edition FREE, Walk With Me

HOSPITAL STAY: The Hospital Chaplains have no way of checking if a particular person is in hospital. Therefore, it is essential that individuals and families let either the parish or the chaplaincy know if somebody is in hospital and Father Frank can follow it up. To leave a message on the chaplaincy answer phone, kindly call 0300 422 4286 for Cheltenham or 0300422 6200 for Gloucester, stating clearly the name of the Catholic Patient, and, if known, what ward they are on. If you know that you are going in to hospital, please ask one of the Priests to give you the Sacrament of the Sick before going in.

200 CLUB DRAWS – MAY 2018

March

<u>PRIZE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>WINNER</u>	<u>TICKET NO</u>
1 ST	£230	R. DIX	125
2nd	£120	F. MORRIS	138
3 RD	£60	S. MORGAN	156



formally recognised as a Fairtrade Parish by CAFOD

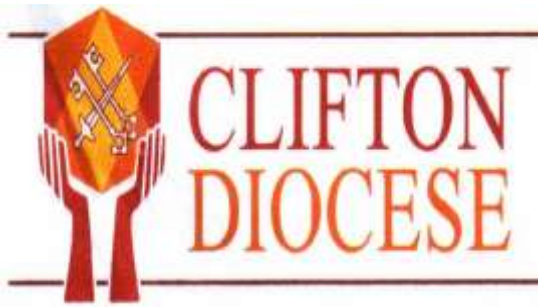


'Like' our page on Facebook ~ Our Lady's Churchdown

Parish Office open Tuesday - Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm. Please submit items for the Bulletin to the Presbytery by WEDNESDAY.

If you would like to receive a weekly electronic version of this bulletin please email: churchdown.ourlady@cliftondiocese.com

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May 2018

Dear Parishioner,

In 2017 our parish ran at a deficit of £8,000. This equates to almost £154 per week.

The Parish is running at the same deficit levels as in 2016 and the Income and Expenditure table below shows the comparison between the two financial years

Income (£)	2016	2017	Expenditure (£)	2016	2017
Offertory	53,000	53,500	Church Expenses	5,500	4,500
Misc. Income	3,000	4,000	Building Repairs	3,000	4,000
			Gas & Electric	3,000	3,500
			Parish Expenses	11,000	11,500
			Administration	5,500	6,500
			Parish Share	23,000	24,000
			Salaries	13,000	11,500
Total	56,000	57,500		64,000	65,500
			2016 Deficit	8,000	
			2017 Deficit		8,000

As you will see there is a loss of £8,000 during the year, or £154 per week. The figures do not take any consideration for extraordinary expenses such as repairs to the fabric of our church and presbytery. Whilst there was a generous response to our appeal last year for parishioners to increase their donations, for which the Parish Finance Committee thanks you, we have lost a number of contributing parishioners due to various circumstances. Therefore, our Offertory Income only increased by £500. Expenditure has increased; some of which must be down to rising costs due to inflation over the year.

Each year our parish has to rely on a donation of £6,500 from the 200 Club. The hope was that this money would create a fund that would cover unexpected items such as repairs. As in 2016, part of the 200 Club contribution was spent on the day-to-day running of the parish with the balance going towards maintenance. Fortunately, a few years ago, we received a generous legacy but it will not last long if we continue to dip into it year on year. Which is what the Parish is currently doing.

Sadly, it is difficult to see where we could make savings from expenditure without damaging our ability to fulfil the responsibilities of a parish. The parish share, for example, goes to support the functions of the Diocese which includes education, finance, safeguarding, property services and communications, such as public relations.

The Parish Finance Committee is therefore asking that if you did not review your parish offertory donation last year would it be possible for you to do so this year? To those of you who were able to respond last year, could you do so again this year? The Parish cannot continue to run at a deficit and this burden cannot be on the shoulders of Fr. Paul alone. We all share in this responsibility.

If you donate via the offertory plate you simply increase your donation either by loose cash or by using the white and blue envelopes. If you donate by a monthly banker's standing order you will need to fill in an Increase to Donation Form. If you are new to the parish or an existing parishioner and you would like to donate by standing order there is a Standing Order Instruction Form. Both these forms are available in the Narthex.

Once the form is completed, it should be returned to the Parish Office marked for the attention of Carol Magill.

At the end of March Carol Magill did make a plea to any parishioner, who pays UK Tax, to consider signing a Gift Aid Declaration. I am re-iterating that plea. This costs you, the parishioner, nothing other than declaring your full name, address, post code and adding a signature to a Gift Aid Declaration Form. However, there is an enormous financial benefit to the Parish. For every £1 donated with a Gift Aid Declaration, the Parish receives 25p back from the Government. In 2017/18 Tax Year, Gift Aid amounted to over £9000. The Parish finances would be in a far worse deficit if it wasn't for this amount. Currently about a quarter of the total Offertory Collection is not Gift Aided. This is put directly onto the plate each week in CASH and is a lost opportunity. If only half of that cash was gift aided, the Parish would receive an additional £2000 from the Government. If your personal circumstances mean you are unable to increase your donation, but you pay UK Tax, PLEASE consider this option. Carol Magill, the Parish's Gift Aid Administrator, will be happy to talk you through this. It really is a very simple and easy process.

You will receive a Parish hand out as you leave church this morning. Please read it. It gives a little more detail of the breakdown of the parish finances, but it also covers how parishioners can make non-financial contributions to support the life of the Parish. All the necessary forms regarding Gift Aid will also be available in the Narthex and Carol Magill will be happy to answer any questions after both Masses today.

Also, there is always a generous response from the Parish to the various special collections that occur during the year, such as Cafod, Clergy Training Fund etc. These collections are additional to your regular parish contributions and are very much appreciated. Thank you for your continued support and generosity to such appeals.

Finally, on behalf of Fr. Paul and the Parish Finance Committee (Martin Keal, Jim Padden, Paddy Anderson and Carol Magill), thank you for your time in listening this morning. It's never easy making a financial appeal but we do have a wonderful parish and we all have a responsibility as the current "caretakers".