

My Stewardship Story

by Greg Robinson

I came to St. Stephen's originally as I saw in it a church that made a difference in the community. It seemed to me that the goal of the churches I had been attending for a number of years was to survive. This didn't seem to me to be accomplishing much for God and I wasn't getting any younger.

I met with Rob Szo and talked with him about joining St. Stephens. It was very important to me that I be able to continue to support Generations Development Mission, (Genedemi), which is a small mission in Kampala Uganda that is a place of refuge, love, and education for young women with nowhere else to turn.

In addition, I was keen to see Christian teaching that extended beyond the sermons on Sunday. It had been something of a passion for me to read numerous Christian scholars and theories over a period of years and it had made a huge impact on my understanding of my Christian faith and I believed that if exposed it would have a similar effect on the lives of others. It is my belief that Christianity is in the midst of a reformation that is having a massive impact on the church world wide and across denominations. The 3 writers that have had the greatest impact on my understanding are 3 Anglicans; C S Lewis, N T Wright and John Polkinghorne.

As a Christian I believe that it is our vocation to spread God's love to our community and to the wider world. I see our parish as being a place where I can be a part of that. I enjoy both services on a Sunday and enjoy the 2 similar yet different worship styles in St. Mary and St. Stephen.

In order to fulfill our Christian vocation of taking God's love into our community and the world we have to support our parish, with both our resources of time and finances. Without those we will become inward looking and more worried about survival than mission. We should all prayerfully consider how we can return to God, our time and finances, as His image bearers in our church, our community and the world.

**All things come of thee, oh Lord,
of thine own have we given thee.**