

Frequently Asked Questions about **Moulton Additional Staff Trust (MAST)**

In this article we will seek to answer some of the common questions that people have about the **Moulton Additional Staff Trust (MAST)**. For further information please pick up a copy of the brochure about **MAST**, available from the church office or talk to one of the MAST trustees or a member of staff.

What is MAST? Why is it important?

MAST is a charitable trust that was set up in 2003 to help and support Moulton Parish Church to employ additional people in the ministry of the church here in Moulton. It is the vehicle that funds the appointment of people who can extend our current capabilities as a Parish and enable us to branch out into new areas of ministry in the local community. Any money given to this Trust will not go to support building work or flow to the Diocese directly, but is used exclusively for the funding of additional staff. Currently MAST funds four posts in the life of the church: the Youth Minister, the Women's Worker and the two Apprentice Student Workers.

How have we as a church already benefited from MAST?

In 2003 MAST funding made it possible for the church to employ Paul Frost as full-time Youth Minister and Chaplain to Moulton college for a period of three years to 2006. This was the first appointment to be made through MAST and can now be clearly seen as a dramatic step forward in the life of the church and in building good relationships with the College, Secondary School and local community. The appointment of Anna Reppold as Apprentice Student Worker in 2005 to support Paul continued this good work. Following this we made the appointment of Rachel Menon as Women's worker, Kaushal David as Youth Minister, and Nick Trenholme and John Spence as the Apprentices. At the present time we have Rachel Menon as Women's Worker, Dani Cook as Youth Minister and John Spence and Simon Berry as our Apprentices.

Does MAST benefit the local community?

Very much so. Alongside Dani and John's work within the College helping to provide welfare provision for the many students there, Dani, John and Simon are also involved with 'Blue Door' an after school club that aims to provide a safe and relaxed environment for 11-16 year olds to do homework, take part in a range of sporting, musical and creative projects or simply relax and socialise. They also run JAM club (Jesus And Me) for younger ones. They are involved in 'Liberate', the Christian Union in the Secondary School and attend the Christian Union at University College Northampton. Rachel is also involved with taking assemblies in the local schools and has organised very successful summer clubs for primary school aged children.

How is MAST funded?

In part MAST is funded by grants from Charitable Trusts, and also funding is received from Moulton College in connection with Dani's appointment as Chaplain at the College. However this is not sufficient to fund all of MAST's activities, and so MAST is dependent on the regular, generous and sacrificial giving of Church family members. A number of individuals have chosen to support MAST by regular standing orders, and this is very beneficial to the Trust as it helps with budgeting and planning for the future.

Why should everyone participate in MAST?

As God's people we are called to be stewards of God's gifts and blessings. We therefore have a responsibility to return a part of what He has blessed us with to those in need both inside and outside the church. Being a good steward is rarely convenient or easy, but as disciples of Jesus, we must move beyond our own personal desires and be concerned with the needs of others in our community. Giving to MAST can help us to do this since through its work it aims to meet both the practical and spiritual needs of those within the church and wider community.

Is my gift to MAST part of my tithe to the church?

Yes. The Bible teaches us that we should tithe sacrificially to the church and the poor – that is, to set aside 10% of our household income to give away. This kind of giving recognises God as the

Creator and Giver of all things and encourages the sharing of our time, talent and treasure in gratitude to God for His many gifts in our lives. We would suggest that between 2 to 3% be pledged to MAST.

Is it possible to leave money as a legacy to MAST?

Yes, you may wish to remember the work of the church through a legacy, of which a number have proved very helpful in recent years. The Vicar or members of the finance team will be glad to answer any questions you may have about how to direct a bequest to serve the church best. To leave a legacy you will of course need to contact a local solicitor so as to make the appropriate arrangements in your will.

Why give to MAST?

A good reason: to support the current posts of a full time Youth Minister, full time Apprentice Student Workers and part time Women's Worker in our community.

A better reason: to raise money to enable the church to extend its work within the Parish and beyond.

The best reason: to exercise stewardship of the resources that God has entrusted to us, that is, to give thanks for all God's gifts by sharing a significant portion with others through the church. The church is itself a gift to us; our gifts make it possible for the church to serve others and to proclaim the good news about Jesus Christ to our local community through words and actions.

Through your gift, you will be a part of every young person we contact, every family strengthened, every talk given, every mission started, every broken heart healed, every life restored; you have a part in every caring activity of our church.

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