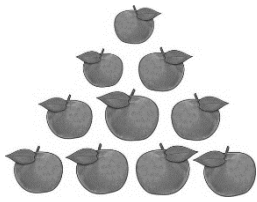


Once upon a time ... A story about apples!



Once upon a time there was a man with nothing.

God hated to see the man with nothing, so he gave the man ten apples.

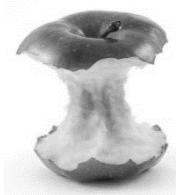
God gave the man the first three apples to eat.

God gave the man the second three apples to trade for a shelter from the sun and rain.

God gave the man the third three apples to trade for clothing to wear.

God, being a generous God, gave the man the final tenth apple so that he might have something to give back to show his gratitude for the other nine.

Well, the man ate the first three apples and he traded the second three for a shelter from the sun and rain. He traded the third three for clothing to wear.



Then he looked at the tenth apple – and it seemed bigger and juicier than all the rest.

The man knew that God had given him the tenth apple so that he might return it to him out of gratitude for the other nine. Yet the tenth apple looked so much better than all the rest and he reasoned that God had all the

other apples in the world – so the man ate the tenth apple and gave back to God – **the core!**

Fact: Since the Rector came in October 2015 he has never, ever, talked money – stewardship. Yet as we enter our 801st year of faith, to finance the church to minister effectively in its mission and ministry, and to meet rising costs of parish share, energy and fabric demands, that subject must be raised. You have raised finance in your households many times since October 2015 and now for the first ever time since Rev Mark has been here we are raising it within the household of God – our Church.

We are launching our stewardship campaign from mid-January to mid-February and we hope people may be able to increase their giving and to become more regular in their giving to help us meet as a church the challenging times ahead of us.

God really has given us enough apples to supply our needs – plus one which we may show our gratitude to him. The choice is always ours. Will we return to God one of our apples – **or only the core?**

(Rev Mark)