

ST MARY'S: OUR GOAL AND OUR NEEDS



1. Our Goal. We truly believe that St Mary's has to be at the centre of our community, to give us an opportunity to encourage and enhance both spiritual and cultural local activities. As well as helping people in any form of need, we want to engage in all aspects of community life, to bring local people and the church together at lots of different levels. That's why our stated mission is 'to be a bridge between God and our community, sharing the Love of Jesus and growing in worship, welcome and witness'.

To achieve this, though, we need your ongoing support – both financial and personal. This leaflet is about how you can help support us financially.

2. Why should we give money to the Church? Our giving of both money and time supports this mission – both in Sevenoaks and further afield. We give to the Church because we see God’s abundant generosity in the world around us.

3. Our average 2023 monthly budget. Every church – large or small - has to fund itself. So how much do we bring in, and what do we spend it on each month?

Income	
Planned Giving	£6,125
Cash Collections	£426
One-Off Donations	£542
Gift Aid	£1,737
Centre Income	£2,292
Investment Income	£412
Fees	£167
Other income	£116
Total	£11,817

Expenses	
Diocese Common Fund	£5,344
Charitable giving	£1,167
Centre utilities	£738
Centre running: other	£1,162
Church utilities	£863
Church running: other	£1,166
Insurance & road fees	£852
Organ & choir	£433
Admin / secretarial	£429
Vicarage	£413
Garden & car park	£133
TOTAL	£12,700

Our budgeted shortfall for 2023, of some £883 per month on average, is almost exactly the same as the expected increase in our gas and utility bills.

Our giving to external charities, £1,167 in the table above, is based on 10% of our regular income. Because of the budget shortfall the PCC is reviewing this policy, and expects to come to a conclusion later in the year.

4. How much money should we give? We live in worrying times. Hard on the heels of the Covid pandemic comes an energy crisis and inflation at levels not seen for many years. Some of us are really struggling to pay the bills already.

However, the New Testament teaches us to be as generous as we can in giving to God across the spectrum of the local church and other charitable causes. Not everyone, of course, can afford to increase their giving, especially at the moment. So, we simply ask you please to consider prayerfully how much you are able to provide to St Mary’s.

5. What about the money we pay to the Diocese? The 'Common Fund', into which we pay each month, pays for our clergy, their housing and ongoing training and development. It pays for the training and development of our future clergy and to further the work of the Church in every parish across the Diocese of Rochester. This includes the costs of safeguarding, legal structures, communications and financial governance.

The Diocese is a wonderfully diverse and vibrant community of faith, with each parish facing different challenges and needs. Our Diocesan vision expresses our ambition to meet these challenges as a family of faith, supporting one another as we seek to grow disciples, enrich communities, and resource our mission and ministry. The Common Fund helps us realise this ambition.

6. Thank you - for all you already do to support your Church and the wider community through it, and thank you in advance if you are able to respond to this appeal and help St Mary's work even better.



Our target is to meet all our regular outgoings from regular income (i.e. planned giving plus lettings of the Church Centre). Then, when we receive the generous one-off donations which do sometimes come our way, we could use them for a specific, identified activity rather than have them bridge our funding gap. So:

- If you are already a regular giver - and we are truly grateful for the financial sacrifice you make – would you please consider increasing your donation?
- If you are not already a regular giver, now is the time to consider whether you are able to help.

Whether you pay income tax or not, we can reclaim £1 in every £4 of almost all regular, planned giving through Gift Aid – but there are different ways of doing it.

7. How you can plan your giving. Many of our church family give a set amount to the church, either by standing order each week, month, quarter or year, or by using dated weekly envelopes for cash. Planned giving helps us with our financial planning and budgeting, so that we have a much better idea of how much the church will have and how we can support our vision – and means that you still contribute even if you can't attend church on a particular week!

- If you are a taxpayer, the best way is to set up a standing order through your bank. The bank method is easier for you (as you don't have to find cash to put in an envelope every week) and much better for us – because the payment is made regularly and automatically! If your circumstances change, you can of course cancel your standing order at any time.
- If you do not pay income tax, there is the alternative of using weekly coloured envelopes. The envelopes have each Sunday's date on them, to help you remember to catch up on your pledged contribution when you are away. If you need some, please contact our Church treasurer Chris Saunders at kippingtontreasurer@hotmail.co.uk.

8. What we give. Our gifts are between us and God. It is not for the church to tell you what you should be giving. However we ask you to pray, think and decide what is right for you to give to the church, alongside your other charitable donations.



9. The next step. Please make your response using the form provided and:

- put it in the Plate on or before Sunday July 16, when we will offer up our responses with thanksgiving to God, or
- between now and then, either leave it in the Parish Office or put it in the T (for Treasurer's) pigeon-hole at the back of the church.

Thank You again for your response

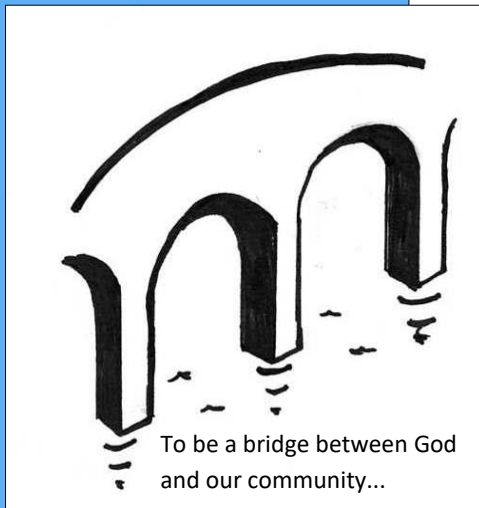


THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY KIPPINGTON

SEVENOAKS, KENT

Response Form

So that we can resource our church and support our vision, it is important for us to know what our income will be and what practical support we have from our church family.



We are asking everyone at St Mary's to think how you can help financially as we set out our vision and support one another along the way.

Please make your response using this form and put it in the plate on Sunday 16 July, when we will offer up our responses with thanksgiving to God. Alternatively, either leave it in the Office in the Parish Centre or put it in the T (for Treasurer's) pigeon-hole at the back of the church on or before that date.

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST MARY KIPPINGTON
SEVENOAKS, KENT**



This response is confidential and will be seen only by Chris Saunders our Treasurer and Zoë Anderson our Planned Giving Administrator.

If you are new to Planned Giving and would like to set up a standing order, please do so online through your personal bank website or ask Chris Saunders for a form. Our bank details are:

- Bank: Nat West Sevenoaks
- Sort Code: 60-19-02
- Account Name: Kippington PCC No 1 Account
- Account Number 25814486

I will increase my monthly / quarterly / annual* donation to £.....
*please delete

I would like to join the Parish Giving Scheme and will set up a new standing order for £..... monthly / quarterly / annually*
*please delete

I would like to give £..... per week through the envelope scheme

I would like to make a one-off donation of £.....

I have reviewed my current giving and am unable to change.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Phone:..... Email.....:

Thank you for your response