

Stewarding God's work



Giving to
St Mary's
East Leake



We're so thankful for the generosity of those who give to St Mary's.

Your commitment to giving helps people grow in faith, flourish in discipleship and enables christian mission and ministry to happen both locally and in deprived areas all over Nottinghamshire.

Anglican churches do not receive any government funding. It is all made possible by your giving, which is essential as we seek to bring the Gospel afresh to new and future generations. **Thank you!**

As Christians, we are not just 'fundraisers' for God's Kingdom, but partners and stewards of it. So please take this opportunity to prayerfully consider your contribution to the work God is doing among us, and how you will invest in that work going forwards.

The Story so Far

Christians have met on this site to worship and proclaim the good news of Jesus for over 1,000 years. The St Mary's of today is the result of that continuing commitment to God's mission in this place. It's a commitment reflected in the building, as each generation not only cares for its fabric, but also develops, adapts and even extends the church to meet the needs of the day.

But above all, it's a commitment reflected in us. So much of what is happening today is the result of people giving time, energy and money to enable God's work among us. This is a work we not only want to see continue into the future, but also grow and multiply.

St Mary's is a community of well over 120 regular worshippers, with many more people of all ages who are ministered to through the life of this church. Our longing and prayer is that the good news of Jesus is life transforming for our community. Your financial partnership in the gospel does far more than just keep

the lights on, it enables the light of Jesus to shine out into the darkness.

How can I become a financial partner?

We are asking every member of the church family to prayerfully consider how they might play their part in the life and the work of St Mary's through planned giving in the year ahead.

If you are new to church or to regular giving: we really would encourage you to start giving regularly to the work God is doing among us.

It costs around £14,000-16,000 each month to sustain our ongoing mission and ministry at St Mary's. That might sound a lot - but it is fairly typical for churches like ours. The majority of that comes from the monthly planned giving of our members.

Please don't feel that your contribution wouldn't make a difference, or that others can be relied upon to cover any shortfall. The truth is - without all of our financial contributions, however large or small, we will not be honouring one another, or honouring the work that we are seeking God to do through us.

If you give already, thank you, for both your commitment to the financial stewardship of the gospel, and the generosity with which that gift is made.

As we reflect together on stewardship, we would ask everyone who already gives to consider the increased costs of the past few years in their giving. But it may also be right to consider doing more. Giving is a calling that we grow in as we grow in faith. So if you have made a step forward in your faith over these past few years, don't be surprised if you find God asking you to let your giving reflect not just inflation, but a renewed passion for the work He is doing in you and others.

If you are really struggling, thank you for whatever your contribution is, however small. Please know that it is valued and respected because it is your personal response to God.

How to respond

Pray: First - to know something of God's delight in the ways you are already answering his call to steward the work of his kingdom, as well as you can. And then - to seek his direction in that calling in the year ahead. Ask him how best you can support his gospel work with the money that he has given you.

Understand: Be realistic about what it costs to run the church and what you are able to contribute. Reflect on the teaching we will be doing in church on the heart and journey of giving, and the part we all play in resourcing God's work among us.

Act: Please follow through with starting or adjusting your giving, as you have been led. As a church we are joining the Parish Giving Scheme, and we would invite all those who give to consider doing so through that scheme. If applicable, make a Gift Aid Declaration (which enables us to increase the value of your gift by reclaiming tax that you have already paid on that gift.)

Over the next couple of weeks we will explore something of the heart and place of giving within the journey of following Jesus. The rest of this booklet shares something of the financial story of St Mary's and explains practically how to start or change your giving.

Finances at St Mary's

In 2023, the total expenditure of St Mary's Church (which included the cost of replacing the lighting in Church) was around £190,000.

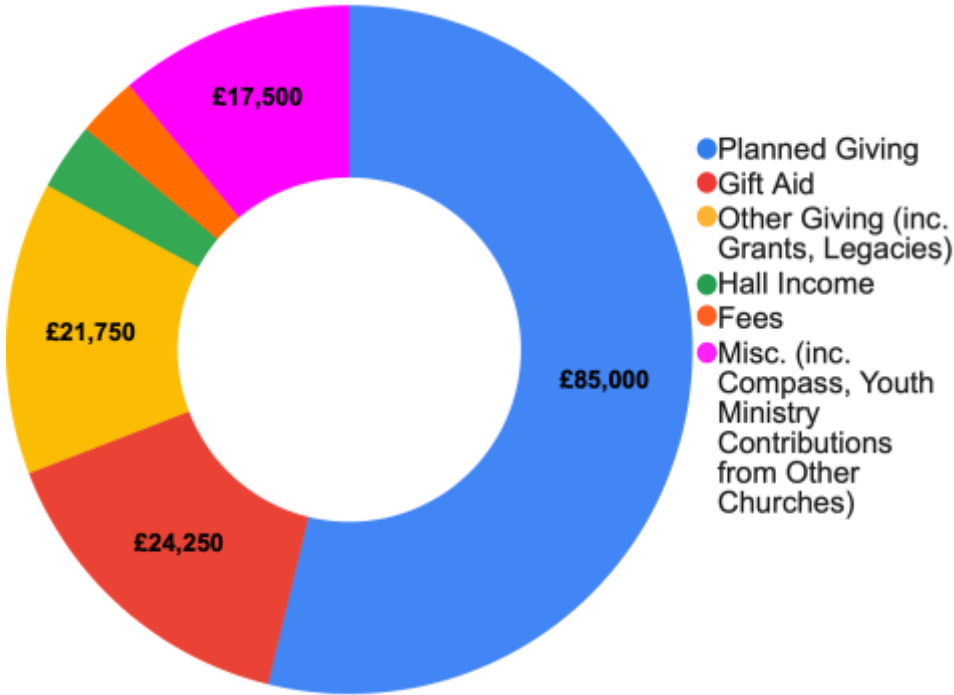
Where does our money come from?

St Mary's receives no money from the government or the Church of England in order to pay our running costs. Some funds are raised through hall lettings and other fees (e.g., funerals). The vast

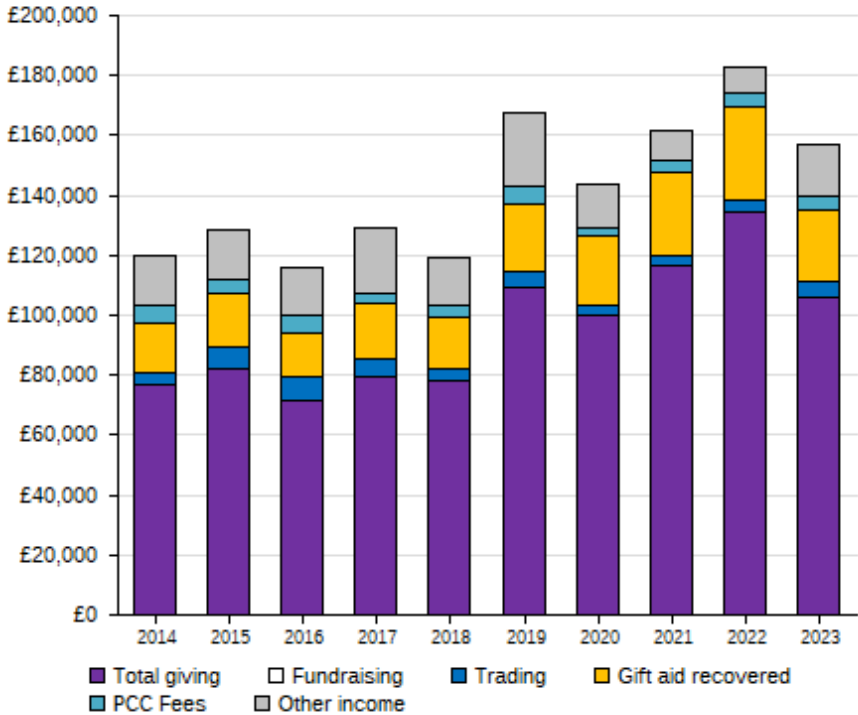
majority of our income however comes through the generous contributions of those who worship and support the church financially through regular giving.

St Mary's Income 2023 Breakdown

Total Income: £158,000



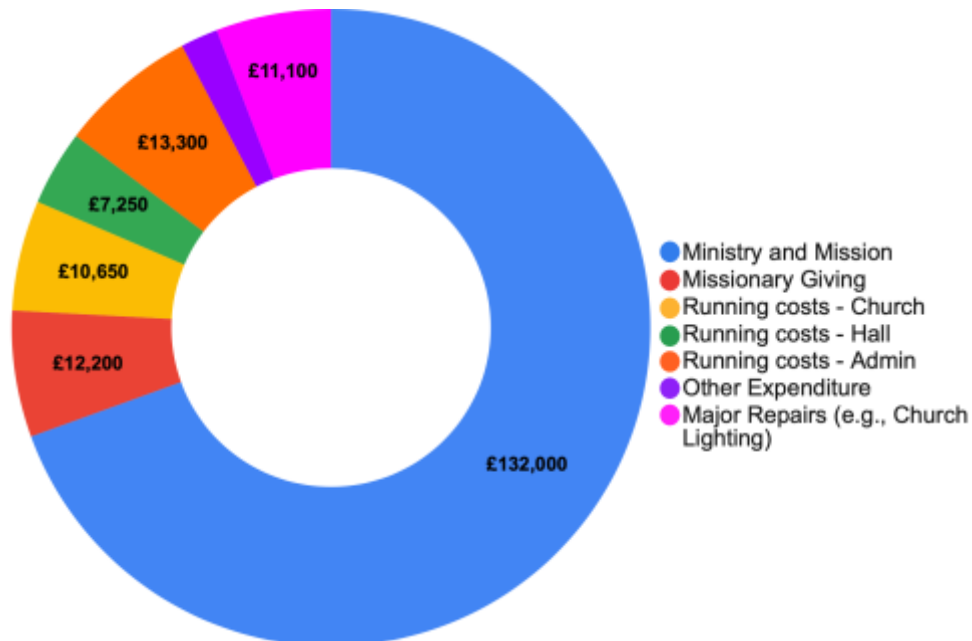
Overview of St Mary's Total Income 2014-2023



NB: Giving in 2021 incorporated a generous gift to support the role of Children & Families worker through to 2024. The giving in 2022 was supplemented by a generous legacy.

Where do we spend our money?

Total Expenditure 2023: £190,000



The majority of our money goes to pay people who lead and enable ministry and mission. A clergy person's 'salary' in 2023/2024 is £28,634 gross, and then the usual pension, NI contributions, along with their housing and training costs. This is all set and paid through the diocese. As part of the Anglican church, we also contribute to the salaries of clergy in some of the poorest areas of Nottingham (in particular the Clifton Estate) and to the Church of England's wider work in the community (e.g., in education).

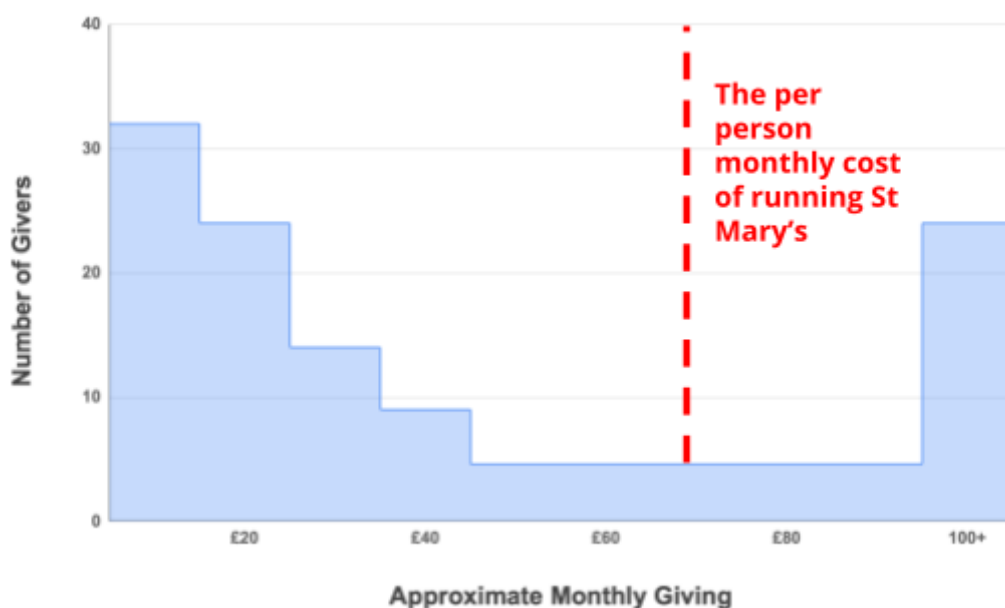
Our mission and ministry costs also include supporting our Youth Worker and Children & Families Worker roles, alongside Sunday worship costs such as Organist and resources.

Running costs include administrator and Hall caretaker, alongside costs such as heating, lighting, insurance and routine maintenance.

Finally our Missionary Giving is part of our contribution to national and international work of the church (e.g., Africa Inland Mission "AIM"). It also funds part of our local mission with students at East Leake Academy. This chart also incorporates one-off collections which go to support various Christian Aid ministries (e.g., on Remembrance Day, Christmas Services).

Current Giving

Taking into account wider contributions to income, **the cost of running St Mary's, met by its members, is around £70 per person per month.**¹ Although as things are, most of us give a lot less than this, relying instead on the generosity of others (past and present) to keep St Mary's financially sustainable:



In daily terms - that's around £2.30, the cost of two loaves of bread.

In essence, you are being asked to contribute what's needed to receive both your own spiritual daily bread - and someone else's - who might be a teenager walking past church on a Wednesday afternoon, a family

¹ Which is about 2.8% of the average monthly income within the East Midlands (circa. £2,500pm).



living on universal credit in Clifton, or a persecuted church, supported by one of our mission partners.

Between us, this is something we should be able to manage, and if we are committed to stewarding and expanding God's work in East Leake, we must grow in giving together.

How to Give

Regularly

For most people, the most practical way to give is through a regular commitment. Up until now this has been primarily through standing order (although other options for giving, such as giving envelopes or cheques are available).

As a church we are now joining the "Parish Giving Scheme" which, if you are able, is what we would invite you to consider giving through. An information pack has been provided with this leaflet.



Tax efficiency

If you are a UK taxpayer, we would encourage you to complete a Gift Aid declaration (included within this Pack). This increases the value of your donation as we claim back the tax you have paid on it. Please note that to qualify for Gift Aid you must pay UK income and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax reclaimed on your donations. The form must be completed in an individual's name.

Legacies

A number of people have generously remembered the ongoing work of St Mary's through legacies in their wills. If you would like to explore this further, please take a look at the information on the website or speak with our Treasurer, Conrad Oatey.

For more information on how to go about giving, you can take a look at our website: eastleakechurch.org/giving

Thank you for your support

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