

# **FINANCING GOD'S WORK**

**at St Mary's Eaton Socon  
2025**





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# Everything we have belongs to God!

All things come from you  
and of your own have we given you

This prayer from 1 Chronicles 29:14 acknowledges that everything we have already belongs to God. It is one of the prayers we use to give thanks for the Offering in services.

What God has entrusted to us enables us to live and to resource his work. As such, we need wisdom as to how we should use the financial resources on loan to us from God!

## Our Giving

There are two parts to our giving:

- God calls us to trust him with the first 10% of everything he gives us (our tithe)
- We give generously out of the remaining 90% according to our circumstances

Regular giving like this would enable the church to resource its entire ministry.

Whilst some people may say this is impossible, countless people throughout the centuries have found this to be true, including some at St Mary's today! God is no person's debtor – he provides what we need (Philippians 4:19).

How we use our money matters to God. As Jesus once said: *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21)*. Where does our heart lie?

## Did you know?

- St Mary's is funded by **our** giving and not by the Diocese or the Government (except Gift Aid).
- Jesus talked more about money than love.
- 16 of the 38 Parables are concerned with how to handle money and possessions.
- 1 in 10 verses (288 in total) of the Gospels deals with the subject of money.
- Where the Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, there are more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions, making them the second most referenced topic in the Bible.

# Belonging to St Mary's

**Being part of a Church Community needs everyone to play their financial part, according to the resources God has given them.**

## Thank-you!

We give thanks for all gifts given that help to resource God's work here at St Mary's – thank-you for all you give.

## 2024's Outcome

Whilst 2024's costs are now similar to 2019's pre-Covid costs, unfortunately, during this same period of time, regular giving has substantially decreased.

For 2024, the General Fund shortfall was originally forecast to be around £23,000. Thanks to your response to a Gift Day at the very end of 2023, and to a further appeal mid-year, the shortfall reduced to around £12,000.

The only way the PCC could identify to avoid ending the year in deficit was by reducing the Parish Share we pay to the Diocese for the last 3 months of 2024. The PCC was reluctant to do this and views it as a short-term option only.

We are still paying the costs of our Vicar, but reducing our contribution to the work of the Diocese.

## 2025's Financial Challenge

In 2025, without making any reductions, the projected shortfall would be around £32,000 which is unsustainable.

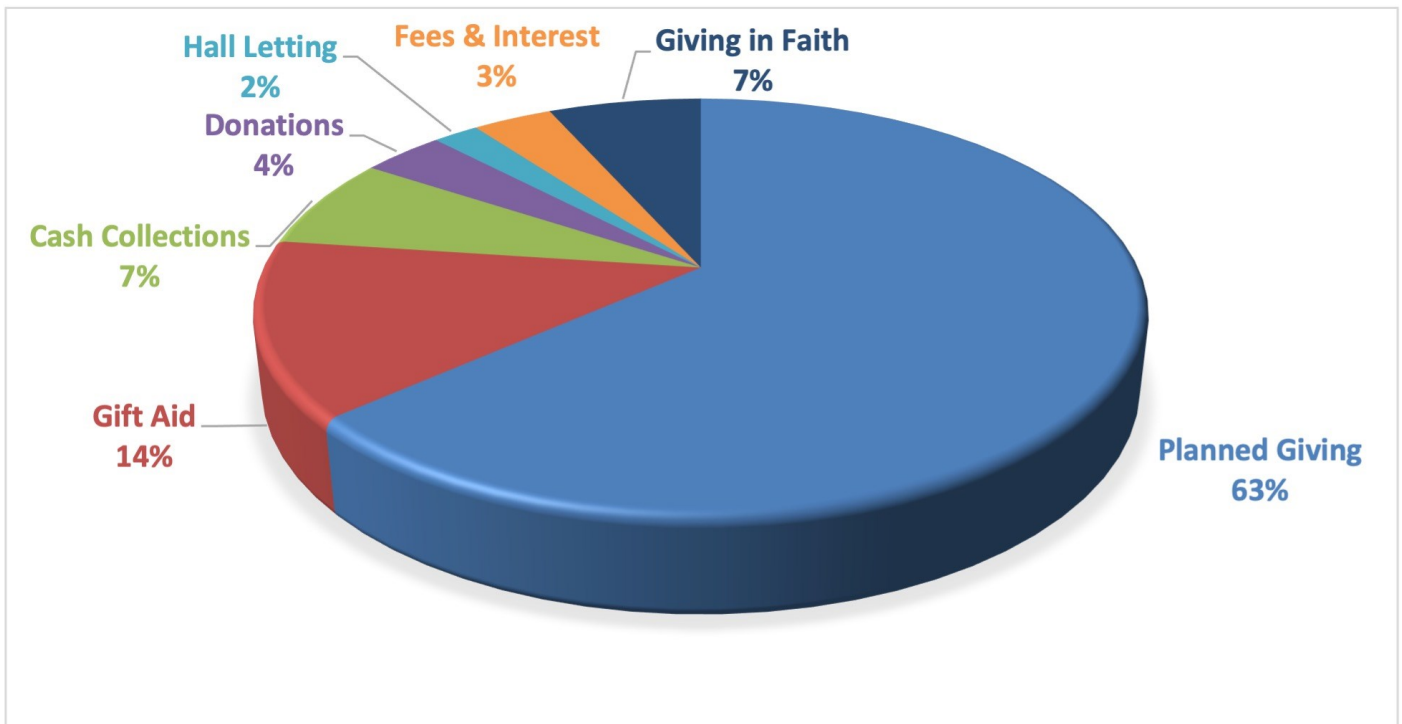
After making various reductions and limiting our contribution to World Mission to 7.5% of planned giving, the PCC agreed that the only way to achieve an acceptable shortfall is to reduce the Parish Share again, this time throughout the year. We will still pay the full costs of having a Vicar.

This would reduce the projected shortfall to £9,339 that we need to meet.

We as a church need to lift this up in prayer together, with each of us prayerfully reflecting on our individual responses. When we all play the part God is calling us to, then the impossible becomes the possible.

# In 2025, where will St Mary's funds come from?

## How does St Mary's finance itself?



### Explanatory notes:

63% - Planned Giving

14% - Gift Aid reclaimed from HM Government

7% - Cash Collections

4% - One off donations

2% - Hall Lettings

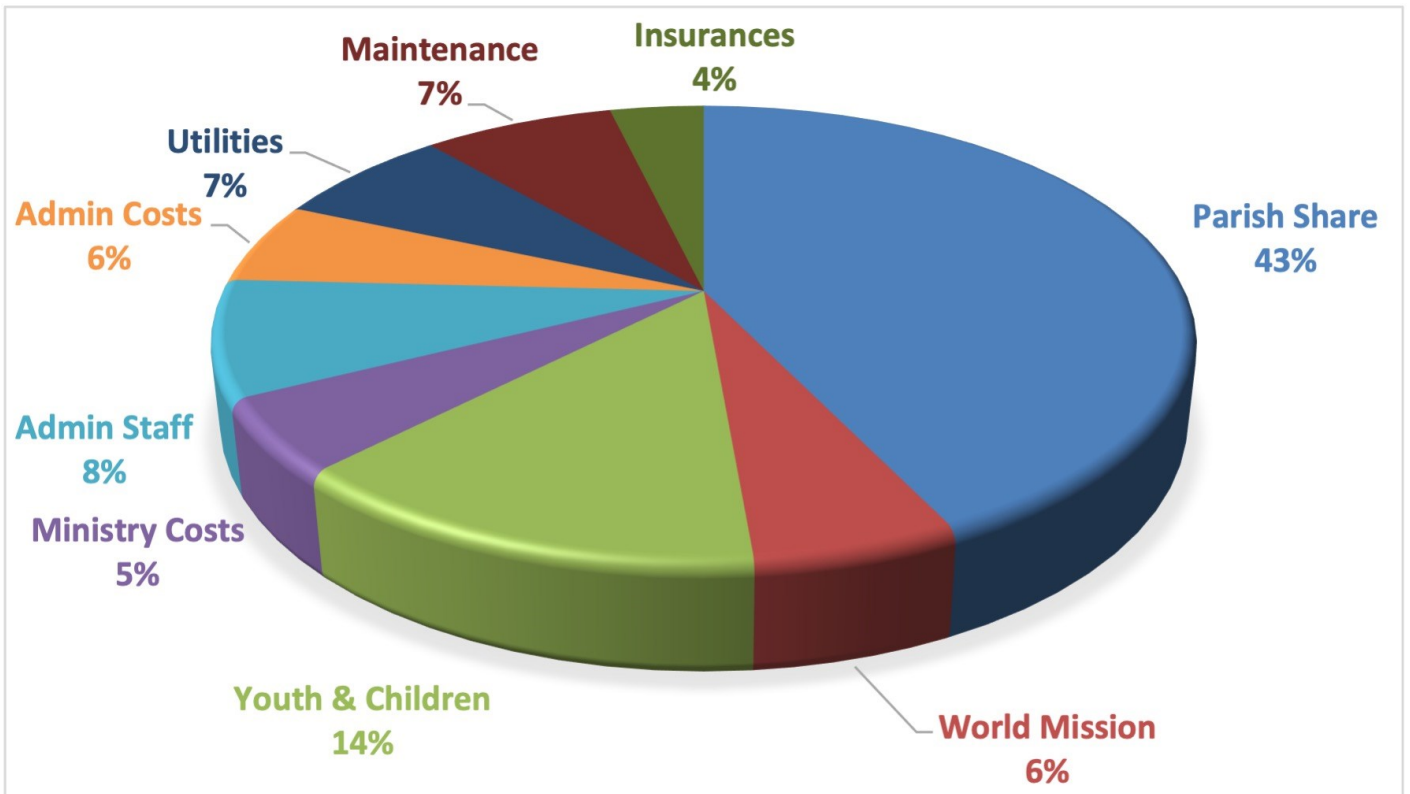
3% - Fees and Interest

7% - Giving in Faith: *The minimum increase (£9339) we need to find in 2025*

**Currently, 77% of our income comes from our regular committed Church members**

**In 2025, it will cost at least £2700 a week to fully resource St Mary's ministry**

**How are we planning to spend our budget?**



**Explanatory notes:**

43% - Parish Share for Vicar (reduced level)

6% - World Mission (7.5% of regular planned giving)

14% - Youth & Children including Children's Worker

5% - Ministry costs

8% - Admin Staff (Vicar's PA & Church Administrator)

6% - Administration and Office costs

7% - Utilities: Gas, water and electricity costs for Church and Church Hall

7% - Church maintenance - including minor repairs, annual checks and Cleaner / Caretaker

4% - Insurances



## Thoughts about Giving...

**Our financial giving is just one way in which we respond to God's love and demonstrate our commitment to his church family**

**When you give to God,  
you discover that God gives to you**

**A Christian can never serve God AND money,  
but they can learn to serve God WITH money**

**If we belong to Christ, it's logical that  
everything we have truly belongs to Him.**

**The world asks 'What does a person own?'  
Jesus asks 'How do they use it?'**

**When we give to God, we are just taking our  
hands off what already belongs to Him.**



# Regular Giving to support St Mary's

There are two different ways to give regularly:

1. Parish Giving Scheme (see below)
2. Standing Order (see page 11)

Our preferred way is using the  
Parish Giving Scheme



## PARISHGIVINGSCHEME

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a free way to plan your regular giving and, where appropriate, to do so tax efficiently.

### How does it work?

Regular donations to St Mary's are made via the PGS by Direct Debit on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis on the first day of the month. Your full gift and any associated Gift Aid is then automatically credited to St Mary's within ten days.

The PGS completes all the administration **at no financial or administrative cost to St Mary's**. This is a way the Church of England is helping Churches with its admin.

A key feature of PGS is that you can choose to inflation proof your gift. This ensures that donations keep pace with inflation and helps meet St Mary's costs. At all times, you retain full control of how much you give.

For more information or to join the Parish Giving Scheme, please either visit [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk) and search for Eaton Socon (Parish Code 320632297); or pick up a PGS pack from the Finance table in church; or speak to the Treasurer.

# Gift Aid Declaration Form

## Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to **Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council** (charity 1130537).

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

### My Details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name or initial(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Full Home address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Please notify the Church Treasurer if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

### Completed Gift Aid forms should be returned to:

The Treasurer, c/o St Mary's Church, Great North Road, Eaton Socon PE19 8EJ  
Email: [finance@eatonsocon.org](mailto:finance@eatonsocon.org)

# Bank Standing Order Form

- There are two ways for you to set up a Bank Standing Order:**
1. Online Banking users can use the Church Account details below
  2. Complete the form below and take it into your Bank

Bank/Building Society Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Account Name:

Sort code:

Account Number:

Please pay '**Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council**'

The sum of £

And in words:

Commencing on date:

And a like sum every month/quarter/year until further notice. (Please delete if not applicable).  
Please debit my account with each payment made. This order cancels any previous instruction  
in favour of the above account.

Bank:

Barclays Bank UK PLC

Address:

Leicester  
LE87 2BB

Account Name:

Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council

Sort Code and Account Number:

20-74-81

60347043

Signature:

Date:

Bring the  
whole tithe  
into the  
storehouse...

...that  
there may  
be food in  
my house.

Malachi  
3:10

**St Mary's Church Eaton Socon PE19 8EJ**

**Website: [eatonsocon.org](http://eatonsocon.org)**

**Registered Charity No: 1130537**