

PLANNED GIVING APPEAL

2024



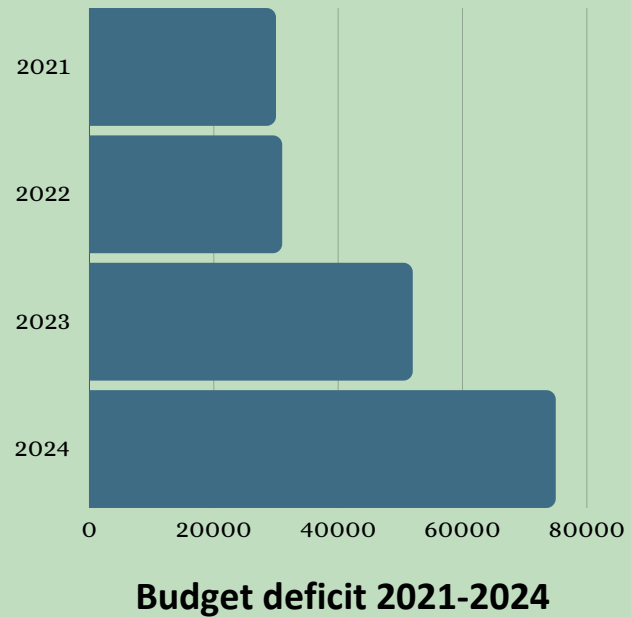
Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and
whoever sows generously will also reap generously

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

ST MARY'S NEEDS YOUR HELP

We last made an appeal like this in 2018, but since then the church's finances have faced significant challenges. St Mary's relies on donations for most of its income, and regular donations have declined due to deaths or parishioners moving away. At the same time, like everyone else our expenses have risen significantly in line with inflation.

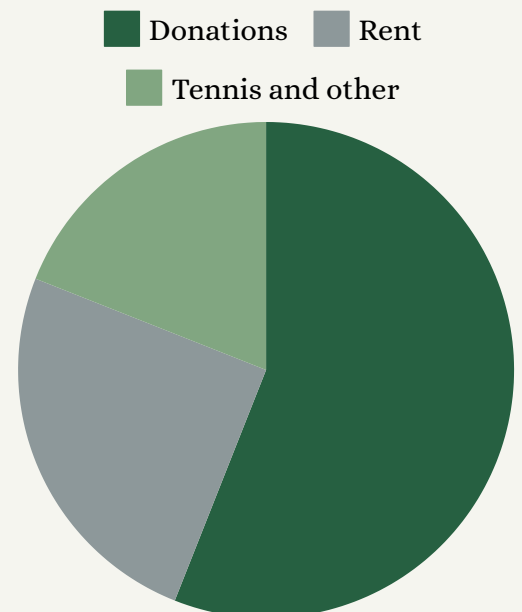
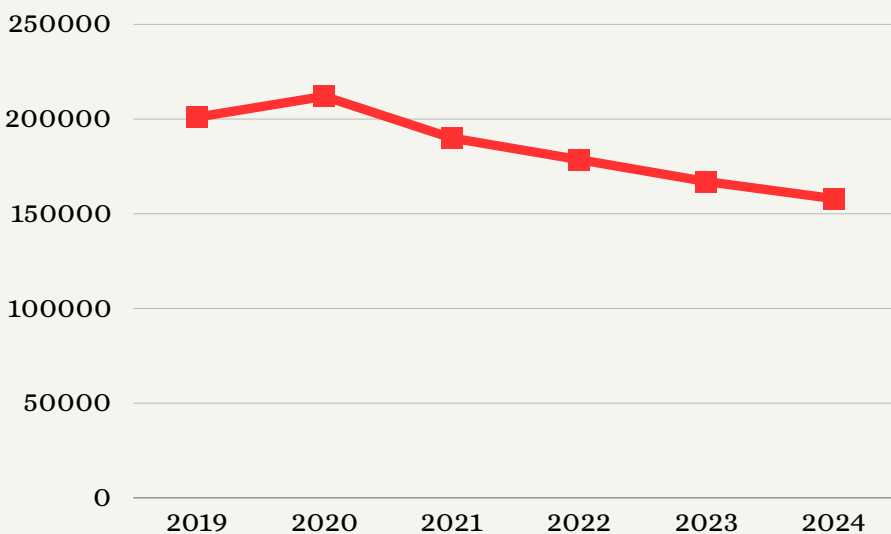
The result is that we are regularly running large deficits, and the situation is not sustainable. Our budget for 2024 predicts a 'normal' deficit of £75,000. In addition, we expect to incur significant exceptional costs this year to complete necessary works fixing the drainage and resurfacing the driveway to the church. We are therefore making an urgent appeal for additional regular committed planned giving to balance our budget.



WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

St Mary's is dependent on the generosity of its parishioners. In 2023, regular giving and collections (plus the related Gift Aid) accounted for 56% of our total income. The rent from Fellowship House and Garden Hall accounted for 25%, and the income from the tennis parking and other sources accounted for 19%.

Giving income 2019-2024



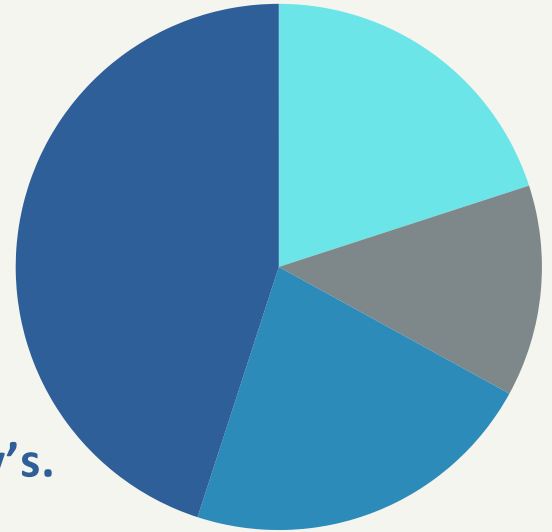
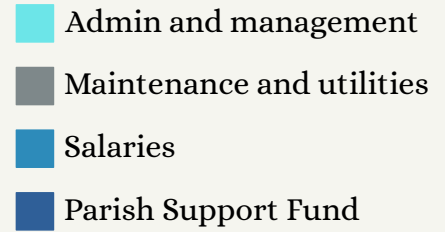
OUR INCOME FROM DONATIONS HAS DECLINED SIGNIFICANTLY.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

St Mary's offers many benefits to parishioners not available in other parishes, including expert youth work, excellent music and an additional member of the clergy focused on pastoral work. All of this takes resources.

Our contribution to the diocese via the Parish Support Fund pays for clergy stipends, pensions, training and housing. In addition to covering our own costs, churches in affluent areas like ours are expected to make an additional contribution to allow a Christian presence to be maintained in much poorer parts of the diocese.

It costs nearly £9,000 a week to run St Mary's.



WHAT ABOUT THE CHURCH'S RESERVE FUNDS?

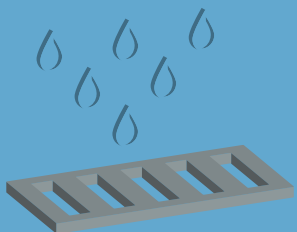
The church's regular income only funds our day-to-day expenditure. For large building and maintenance projects we are dependent on existing reserves or legacies left by generous parishioners.

Repairs to the tower and clock 2020-2023

- Cost: over £300,000
- Funded by: Charles Eglington bequest & development fund



The proposed works in 2024 will entirely deplete the development fund, and leave remaining reserves at a level which is too low to fund large budget deficits in future. We urgently need to make St Mary's finances stable for future generations of worshippers.



Proposed 2024 works: Drainage

- Costs: estimated at £250,000-£350,000
- Funded by: Development fund & unrestricted reserves

PLEASE CONSIDER WHAT YOU CAN DO

Many people at St Mary's help in keeping costs down by volunteering, for which we are immensely grateful. However, it remains important for each one of us who worships at St Mary's to review our personal commitment, including what we can give financially.

- To those of you who are already committed to regular giving: thank you for maintaining your payments. In 2023 there were 185 donors who made a regular contribution, which is roughly 34% of those on the electoral roll. The average contribution was £75 per month. It may be some years since you last reviewed your standing order, and we would ask you to consider increasing your donation amount.
- To those of you who have not yet had time to set up a regular donation, please consider your ability to contribute financially to St Mary's. We have recently signed up to a new giving scheme, which is a more streamlined and simple way to set up a direct debit. Details are below.

HOW TO GIVE

Regular giving: The best way to support St Mary's is by way of a regular gift via the our new giving web page, run by the PGS. This usually allows us to claim 25% in addition to your donation via Gift Aid. The PGS is a website-based facility managed and paid for by the diocese - **all proceeds of your donation will go to St Mary's, and your identity and the amount of your gift will only be known to the church's giving officer and their assistants (or you can remain totally anonymous if you prefer).**



The church's giving page can be found by using the camera on your phone to view the QR code shown here, or by going to www.parishgiving.org.uk. Our Parish code is 370637311.

Standing order: You can continue to give by standing order if you wish to do so, but please also ensure you have filled out a Gift Aid Form. Details can be found on the church's website at www.stmaryswimbleton.org/donate.

In church: Please use the envelopes if donating cash (it allows us to claim Gift Aid). We also have contactless card terminals located in the entrance hall.