

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN & ALL SAINTS, POTTERS BAR
COMMITMENT SUNDAY 2021**

**Have you any idea what it costs
to run St Mary's
each week?**

In 2022, we are expecting it will cost **£2,159 per week** or – to put it another way - **£308 per day**.

And we have to raise this sum **WITHOUT** any support from central Church funds.

Where will the money go ?

	Annual	Per Week
Upkeep of buildings	£30,000	£577
Worship & Ministry	£10,000	£192
Charitable Giving	£5,000	£96
Parish Share	£67,264	£1,294
TOTAL	£112,264	£2,159

Our projected income is:

Planned Giving	£49,985	£961
Tax Recovered	£15,000	£289
Other Giving	£10,000	£192
Rental income	£17,000	£327
Other Income	£15,000	£288
TOTAL	£106,985	£2,057

That's a shortfall of £5,279 or £102 per week

We continue to be very grateful for your generosity, but as you know from your own personal finances, costs are rising. So we ask:

Are you in a position to increase your giving to St Mary's this year ?

You may be thinking – we wouldn't have a problem if we didn't have to pay our Parish Share of **£67,264** to the Diocese of St Albans! However, to keep a priest in each parish, it will cost our Diocese around **£60,000** in 2022 - a figure which includes the cost of each priest's stipend (salary) and National Insurance, and contributions towards their housing, pension, training and support.

So, we **receive back** most of what we pay and are also making a significant contribution towards the work of the wider Church.

Back to our situation

To break even, we need an extra **£102 per week**. We have 133 people on our Church Electoral Roll and there are also other people who regard St Mary's as their church who are not on our Electoral Roll. Currently **97** people belong to our planned giving scheme. If you are not a member of this scheme, could you consider joining, so that we all play our part?

Current Planned Giving
(envelopes, standing orders and cheques)

Amount per week	Individuals	Couples	Total per week
Less than £3.99	4	0	£10.69
£4.00 - £4.99	6	3	£40.55
£5.00 - £7.99	11	1	£73.99
£8.00 - £10.99	2	5	£66.45
£11.00 - £14.99	12	4	£202.72
£15.00 - £19.99	4	2	£104.65
£20.00 - £29.99	7	8	£342.21
Over £30.00	1	2	£120.00
TOTALS	47	25	£961.26

What guidance do we have for giving through the Church?

What we give is entirely a matter between ourselves and God – although God calls each one of us to give in a manner which honours His name according to our circumstances. There are no absolute rules about giving. **The Bible teaches** that:

Our giving should be planned as part of our budget and proportionate to our means and income (e.g. see 1 Corinthians, chapter 16, verses 1 to 2) and **in response to God's many gifts to us** (e.g. see 1 Chronicles verses 11 to 13, and verse 16)

The Church of England recommends that everyone should aim to set aside **5%** of their income (after tax) for the work of the church, with a **further 5%** being for other charitable giving – the historic concept of **"tithing"**.

Please do consider how you will respond to God's love and generosity by playing your part in supporting St Mary's life and witness.

Points to consider

- If you are already in the planned giving scheme, when did you last review your giving?
- If you give to the collection by loose cash or yellow gift-aid envelope, could you consider joining the planned giving scheme?
- If you do join the planned giving scheme, you can choose to give by weekly envelope, standing order, cheque or payroll giving.
- If you are not already doing so, can you **Gift Aid** your giving if you pay tax? If you pay tax, for each £1 you give, an extra 25p can be reclaimed by St Mary's from the Inland Revenue, simply by completing a Gift Aid declaration form. It couldn't be easier !
- Consider how your giving to the church compares with other items of weekly expenditure.

Thank you for reading this. After reflecting and praying about this matter, please complete your pledge form and return it by **Sunday 31st October** – either to the collection box in church or by emailing a scanned version to Liz Nethercott.