



THE PARISH OF ST MARY'S, FAIRFORD

SUPPORTING THE CHURCH FINANCIALLY

A practical guide to your giving

Within this booklet you will find some information regarding St Mary's, some frequently asked questions, a table on giving and information about the best way to give.

One of the easiest ways to give money to the church is to sign a Gift Aid form. We get money from the taxman, always a nice thing to do as you will see from the table below. All it takes is a signature from you.

Our income in 2011

1	Planned Giving	32150
2	Blue Gift Aid Envelopes	4335
3	Tax recovered from HMRC	8979
4	PCC fees from Weddings & Funerals (net)	4754
5	Cash Collection from Services	6610
6	Visitors Boxes	6545
7	Guide books/postcards sales (net)	4788
8	Parish News (net)	1112
9	Fundraising	7900
10	Mercers Donation	3000
11	Any other income (inc office printing, dividends, charity collection, flowers etc)	5492
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		£85,665

It is often a great surprise to people when they learn quite how much money is required to run a large and busy parish church such as ours!

It costs us
over £100,000 a year

What we spent in 2011

1	Parish Share	54224
2	Deanery Youthworker	5422
3	Clergy Expenses	3647
4	Running costs:	
	Insurance	6217
	Repairs	3668
	Heating & Lighting	4758
	Services (inc wine, wafers, children's equipment)	1828
5	Charitable Giving	4024
6	Parish Office/Admin/Bank charges etc	8703
7	PCC Payment to Community Centre Running Costs	5512
8	Other (in 2011 this included final reordering costs)	5725
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		£103,728

Having looked at those figures, you may well have questions! We've tried to anticipate some of those but do ask if you have more - in writing please, so that the query can be properly answered and not be off-the-cuff and therefore possibly inaccurate.

Why are we now running at a loss?

- inflation has hit us all, churches included, and so all our costs have been rising over the last few years
- decreased income from investments; interest paid on St Mary's reserves (capital) are being affected just as are personal savings
- decreased income from giving: this is two-fold
 - ◇ giving has not risen with inflation
 - ◇ some of our most generous givers are no longer with us

What is Parish Share and why do we have to pay it?

Parish Share is paid to the Diocese of Gloucester. The underlying reason for Parish Share is to spread the cost of ministry across all parishes in the diocese, so that ability to pay does not affect whether or not an area is properly served by the Church.

The greatest shared cost (around 75 per cent) is the cost of training, housing and paying the clergy. Other shared costs include the cost of supporting Church schools, running the Church's independent planning system and support officers in key areas such as children and youth work and some support for poorer parishes. There is also a contribution to the national Church and some administration.

In every diocese Parish Share is collected and the shared costs are paid by the Diocesan Board of Finance or the 'DBF'. The reasons the DBF does this are:

- To ensure uniformity of stipends
- So the Bishop may deploy a fair spread of clergy across the diocese
- To ensure clergy have the security of being paid on time and housed appropriately
- It is accountable both democratically (to Diocesan Synod) and legally as a registered charity

On average, parishes spend £5.10 of every £10 donated on local parish life and business as shown in What we spent in 2011. The remaining £4.90, the Parish Share of the Diocesan budget, is spent as follows:

Clergy

Stipend £2.30

Housing 85p

Training 65p



Support services

Schools 35p

Churches 15p

Support officers 35p

Admin and national Church 25p



I thought we received money from the Church of England?

Historically that was the case but today neither we nor the DBF receive any money from any outside source for funding parish ministry. This means that we, this Church family, must respond to the challenge to support ourselves and the Church we love.

It is worth noting that Bishops are funded directly by the Church Commissioners

So we need a big Fundraising Campaign now?

Anything we can raise to cover the current deficit would be very, very useful. However, that is not the answer to our problems.

What we need to do is raise the amount we give to a proper level, meaning that fundraising is - as it should be - a bonus and be used for special projects and charitable giving.

How much should I give?

Circumstances differ enormously and your gift will not simply reflect your willingness to give but also your ability. As a basic starting point the Church believes that in giving to others we should give in proportion to what we receive; i.e. in proportion to our income.

The Church of England encourages committed Churchgoers to give away 10 per cent of their income to good causes, a practice known as tithing which has Biblical origins. It is suggested that of this 10 per cent half is offered as a gift to the Church. This level of giving would ensure not only a secure future for the Church but enable real growth in mission and outreach.

We recognize this recommendation is a challenge. Please be assured we are grateful for and careful with every donation made to the Church, mindful of our duty to use your gifts wisely to grow the presence of God and the Church in our communities.

Whatever you do give we ask that it is a considered, prayerful expression of your faith in action.

How does that work in practice?

Below is a table to help you assess what you give now and what you could or should give. Proportion and perspective are important too; look at the list below and jot down how much you spend on these luxury items per week or month - and then write down how much you are currently giving to the church.

Lottery tickets

Cigarettes

Alcohol

Meals out

Theatre

Holidays

Cars

Clothes

and any more you can think of...



Annual income (Before deductions) £'s	Donations (as a rough percentage of income after deductions) £'s					
	Weekly			Monthly		
	10%	5%	1%	10%	5%	1%
5,000	10	5	1	42	21	4
10,000	17	8	2	74	37	7
20,000	30	15	3	131	66	13
30,000	44	22	4	189	94	19
40,000	57	28	6	246	123	25
50,000	68	34	7	294	147	29
60,000	79	40	8	344	172	34
70,000	91	45	9	394	197	39
80,000	102	51	10	444	222	44
90,000	114	57	11	494	247	49
100,000	125	63	13	544	272	54

The best ways to give – regularly and tax efficiently

The best way to enable St Mary's church to budget effectively and to maintain and develop our ministries is to give:

Regularly – i.e. on a planned weekly or monthly basis;
and

Tax efficiently – i.e. under Gift Aid if you are a tax payer.

There are several ways in which you can give in this way.

By bankers (Standing) order. (see form to complete)

Specifying a regular monthly, quarterly, or annual gift is the best way for the church to receive your gifts as it helps our budgeting - and yours.

By weekly envelope.

You can put cash in an offertory envelope; each pack contains an individual envelope for each week of the year. Envelopes are obtainable from the Planned Giving Secretary, c/o The Parish Office.

Whatever you decide, we strongly urge you also to complete a Gift Aid declaration (included with this booklet) if you are a UK taxpayer, as this will enable the church to reclaim tax that you have already paid at a rate of 25p for every £1 that you give.

In agreeing to give by Gift Aid, you need to ensure that you are paying tax which is greater than the tax that will be reclaimed by the church on your giving, i.e. 25p for every £1 that you give. Generally, people start paying tax when their income is over about £6,500 per year except in the case of interest and dividends, where basic rate tax is deducted at source..

Cash at the offertory

In addition, if you decide that you wish to add to your giving on a Sunday by placing cash into the offertory, please use and complete one of the Gift Aid envelopes available in church. We can supply you with some to complete in advance, if that helps!

Bequests

Finally, the church has, over many years, benefited enormously from the legacies of past generations. So please also consider including St Mary's as a beneficiary in your will.

What to do now – 5 easy steps

- 1 Pray about your commitment to St Mary's.**
- 2. Plan your giving – how much can I afford.**
- 3. Confirm whether you can give under Gift Aid.**
- 4. Decide your method of regular giving.**
- 5. ACT – make your financial commitment a reality!**
 - a) complete a standing order for the church
or
request weekly giving envelopes
and**
 - b) complete a Gift Aid declaration**

And finally...

GIVE....To God what is right



Not what is left