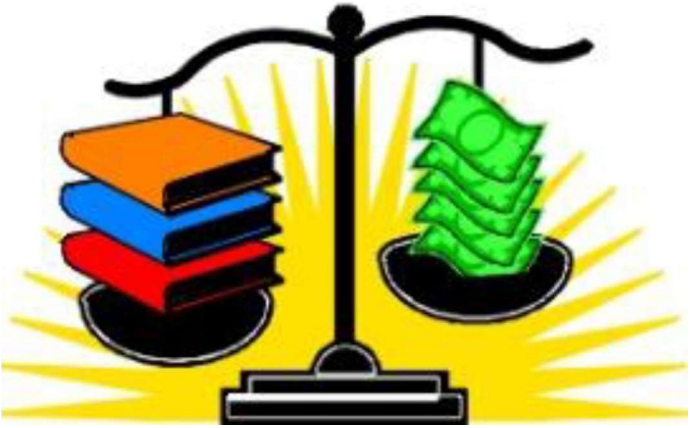
ST MARY'S
CUDDINGTON

Gift Day 2026

To everyone at St Mary's, thank you for your continuing ongoing generous support both in the time you give and the money you are able to contribute to Christ's mission here.

Our 2026 Gift Day asks you to support our drive to make our church a more sustainable environment in which to worship.



To grow in Christ, share Christ & love Christ in others

Sustaining our Heating.

During winter in late 2024, some of you will remember that once again our aged Oil Boiler failed, with a cold church awaiting us one Sunday morning. Fortunately our amazing estates team were able to patch this up for the short term, but ever since we have been on a mission to find a sustainable solution that keeps us warm, is affordable to run, and does not contribute more CO2 to our climate emergency.

Following the raising of £20k in our 2025 Gift Day, the heating team led by Martin White has been hard at work engaging with suppliers, and visiting installations to evaluate a way forward, including:-

- Working with a leading supplier to consider the option to install hanging infrared heaters, using a chandalier approach similar to our current lighting clusters. A trial of under-pew heaters in the choir has also been undertaken.

- Discussions with the Diocese to prepare for the Faculty Application for the works on our grade II listed building.

- Preparing a financial plan against an estimated cost of £100k. We have already raised £20k and can see a path forward to approach benefactors for grants, perhaps raising another £60k.

- **Our objective is to raise additional funds in our Gift Day 2026.**

The PCC will be reviewing progress carefully as we consider whether to proceed with a quote from our leading supplier. Assuming this all proceeds according to plan, we will have the new system in place for the Winter of 2027/28.

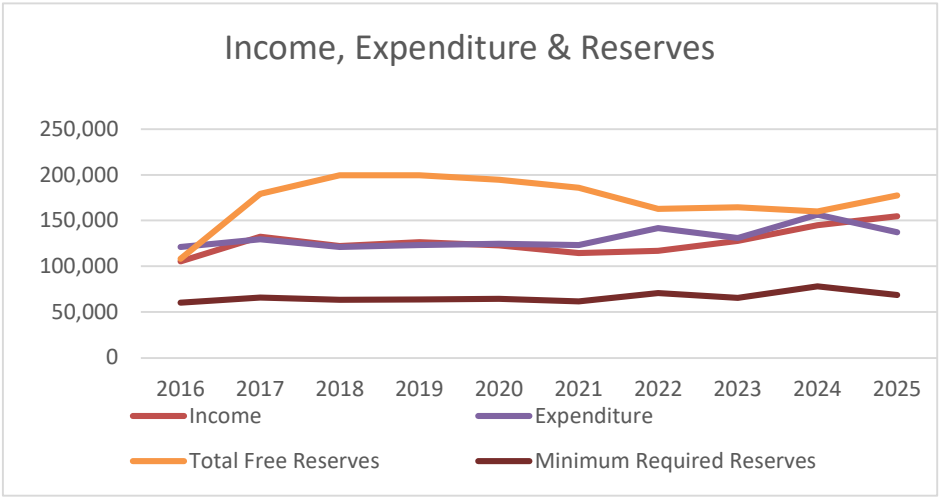
Sustaining our Financial Situation

We are fortunate to have reserves, which can help us manage the cashflow challenges of running our day-to-day expenditure alongside our heating project. Currently our day-to-day costs are not covered by our income, and at the end of Sep we have a year-to-date deficit of £9,400 for 2026. This is a situation which is simply not sustainable.

Whilst we can dip into our reserves to cover this deficit, these reserves are finite. Our policy is to keep sufficient balance to cover six months of operational cashflow, meaning we need to keep a minimum of around £75,000. Whilst we are currently in surplus of this, continuing shortfalls of income against expenditure will soon eat away at this headroom, and we cannot assume legacies will always arrive to top this up.

The PCC monitor our financial position regularly at their meetings and every effort is made to ensure that costs are kept to a minimum, but the outlook for inflation continues to work against us.

We thank our regular givers for their continued review of their contribution towards St Mary's.



Thank you

We are very grateful to those who respond to this challenge, either by making a one-off donation, or by regular giving. Any increase in the number of givers, or any additional contributions can stretch the longevity of our reserves as we plan for a sustainable future.

If you are a taxpayer and are willing for the church to claim gift aid on your gift, please complete a gift aid declaration, if you have not already done so. Claiming gift aid will increase your donation by 25%

As a reminder, St Mary's is open to receiving both regular and one-off donations including:

- *Our Card reader at the back of church*
- *Use of Parish Giving : www.parishgiving.org.uk*
- *One-off donations at our gift day.*
- *Further information on envelope scheme, gift aid, bequests and legacies by talking to the team.*

Members of the Stewardship team will be around afterwards to discuss in confidence any questions you have on this.
Revd Joshva Raja, David Eames, Peter Harvey, John Simon, Judy Peake

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Thank you also to those who give generously with **Time & Talents**.

Further information about all our volunteer opportunities will be available in the hall afterwards on 22nd Nov. Please go and find out more about what goes on, and where there might be an opportunity for you to join in. Training and support will be provided for those willing to have a go, whether this is handing out books, flower arranging, reading, joining the choir, or a house group, chalice assistants, or one of the many other areas that interest you.