

Marton Church Finances

Marton Church was described recently in our visitors' book as:
"The sort of church I love ... a joy to visit."

Specific information about donations

Gift Aid

Gift Aid is a government scheme which can add 25p to every £1 donated to charity. The Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) allows us to automatically apply for gift aid for all cash or contactless card payments (PayPal) for any donation of £30 or less. If you are a UK taxpayer and would like us to be able to claim Gift Aid for a donation made by cheque or bank transfer, or for a larger donation, please email us at martonintheforest@gmail.com to ask for a gift aid declaration form.

Cheques should be made payable to:

St Mary's Church, Marton in the Forest and can be left in the donations box in church (emptied daily) or posted to
The Vicarage, Main Street, Sutton on the Forest, YO61 1DW

A bank transfer can be made to

Saint Marys Church, Marton in the Forest

Sort Code 40-20-02

Account Number 91251872



There is also a quick link to our 'Give A Little' page for online donations:
<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/7307e5a7-c169-49be-92a4-4cbb414e2620>
or you can scan this QR code to go straight to this page.

Leaflet last updated June 2023

Marton PCC and churchwardens are voluntary stewards of this beautiful historic building. We keep the church open daily for visitors and as a quiet, free place to pray. This leaflet explains how the church is financially managed, and how donations to Marton are currently spent. As a church community we believe in financial transparency and integrity. Church accounts are independently inspected annually and shared at a public Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Income

We do not receive any government/national funding but depend completely on the generous giving of visitors and congregation members to keep Marton Church open. During 2020-2021 we had very few services because social distancing was impossible, although we remained open for visitors whenever we could and enjoyed some outdoor services. 'Marton Friends' have also stayed in contact with weekly emails, phone calls and written correspondence. A number of these Marton Friends have kindly continued to make regular financial contributions to help cover ongoing costs. We do not hold extensive savings but have a small contingency fund for emergencies.

Over the years, improvements, repairs and renovations (such as the car park, composting toilet and recent window restoration) have mostly been possible thanks to the great generosity of individuals who have graciously covered the expenses. Because Marton Church is a Grade II listed building, all work must preserve traditional building techniques and materials, and this can be costly.

From time to time, we run fundraising events. We are always immensely grateful to everyone who helps to care for our church and churchyard and those who pray for us or support services/events. This ongoing generosity plays a vital part in creating a welcoming, inclusive and well-cared for church.

Outgoings

Regular costs include electricity for heating and lighting, insurance and annual checks such as PAT testing and fire safety. Every five years we have an electrical inspection and also pay a proportion of the cost of a full architectural inspection (subsidised by a grant from the Church of England). This results in a five-year plan of repair work and renovations so we can plan for the expenditure this will incur. We have achieved a Bronze Eco Church award, and aim to be carbon neutral as soon as possible. The Church of England's target is for all their properties to be carbon neutral by 2030. We are currently rated in the 10% of churches with the smallest footprint for net CO₂ emissions.

As one of five churches in the Forest of Galtres Benefice we are also committed to making monthly freewill offerings to the Diocese of York, who oversee 579 churches and 125 schools affiliated to the Church of England. This is called a 'freewill offering' because every year each church and benefice must decide how much they can contribute. In 2022 our Benefice committed to pay £78,000. Marton Church's proportion of this was just under £8,000 per annum. This payment is intended to cover the direct costs (e.g. salary, housing, pension) of the paid clergy who work in our five churches, financial/legal/ building/ safeguarding advice/training, plus the wider work of the Church of England (training curates and vital outreach in communities where there is financial deprivation and need). We cover work expenses of our priest in charge and employ a part-time Benefice Administrator to support and coordinate our clergy and volunteers.

Marton PCC makes regular donations and often re-allocates service collections to relevant/topical charities. We have supported Toilet Twinning (and Tap Twinning during the covid pandemic), The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (reflecting our concern for our local agricultural community), the Rainbow Centre in Scarborough (for their work supporting refugees), the Disasters Emergency Committee (to support victims of the war in Ukraine) and our harvest gifts were given to the Fairfax Corner Cafe in York (operating a free food policy).

Long-term Aspirations

During the week, visitors come by car, foot or bike to stop for a peaceful place to think or pray. The wildlife-friendly churchyard is also attractive to visitors. Twice monthly we hold simple services inspired by the Iona and Northumbria communities, often referred to as 'Celtic'. These services focus on themes such as Christian life, personal and spiritual growth, the natural environment, justice and peace, prayer and discipleship. We hope to run Quiet Days so that we can continue to develop Marton Church as a place of pilgrimage and a house of prayer.

Following our latest architectural inspection report there are a number of maintenance and repair projects which need to be addressed and paid for. To develop the church as a comfortable and welcoming meeting place, we do need to resolve the challenges of sustainable heating, and all-year parking. We are currently compiling a 'wish list' of projects: do let us know if you would be interested in finding out more. This list includes updating the lighting in the church, installing a hearing loop, roof and tower repairs, an audit of our windows to determine what maintenance and repairs are necessary, painting the internal north wall, fencing maintenance, gravestone maintenance and refurbishing all our noticeboards! We hope that some people will be willing to 'sponsor' a project or make a contribution towards the total cost. However, we recognise that finances are tight for many people right now, so we also greatly value your encouragement and prayer!

If you would like to keep in touch with us, you could join the weekly Marton Friends email group, or to find out more please contact martonintheforest@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/martonchurch) or visit our website (www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18888)

Thank you for reading this booklet!
Do get in touch if you have any comments or queries.