St. Mary's
PARISH
Church

Stewardship
2025

Generous God, Generous people.

Thank you!!

Firstly, a thank you – giving and gratitude go together. We give out of gratitude for what we receive from God. Also, we continue to be grateful for those, who, even in these difficult financial times, give regularly and sacrificially to support the work of God and this Parish.

Success Stories so far!

“I liked Messy Church because it was busy and fun. The crafts helped me think about the Bible story, and I liked doing it with my friends. It made me feel happy.” – Year 4 pupil

“ I love that we don’t have to tidy up afterwards! The kids have a lot of fun here” – A Mum of a St Mary’s pupil.

Success Stories so far!

"I like coming to church, I like Lizzie's talk. I like reading and lighting the candles"
- Jess, Sturt's Farm

Our Vision

To be a lively, loving church, that is welcoming and inclusive to our neighbours. We want to grow!

We aim to be a friendly church family, without walls to the community, spirit led, gospel sharing and Jesus centred.

Our Mission

- Develop our work with families and employ a Children & Families' Minister
- To improve our communications and outreach into the community – e.g. social media and website updates.
- To improve church fabric e.g. Heating solutions!

Our Parish Finances ..
Where we are and 2025 costs

Only 1 Year in last 6 has income exceeded expenditure

Overall Costs

2020 £85,452

2024 £108,281 excluding repairs and renovations - an increase of 26.7%

Parish Share

2020 £64,960

2025 £74,943 an increase of 15.3%.

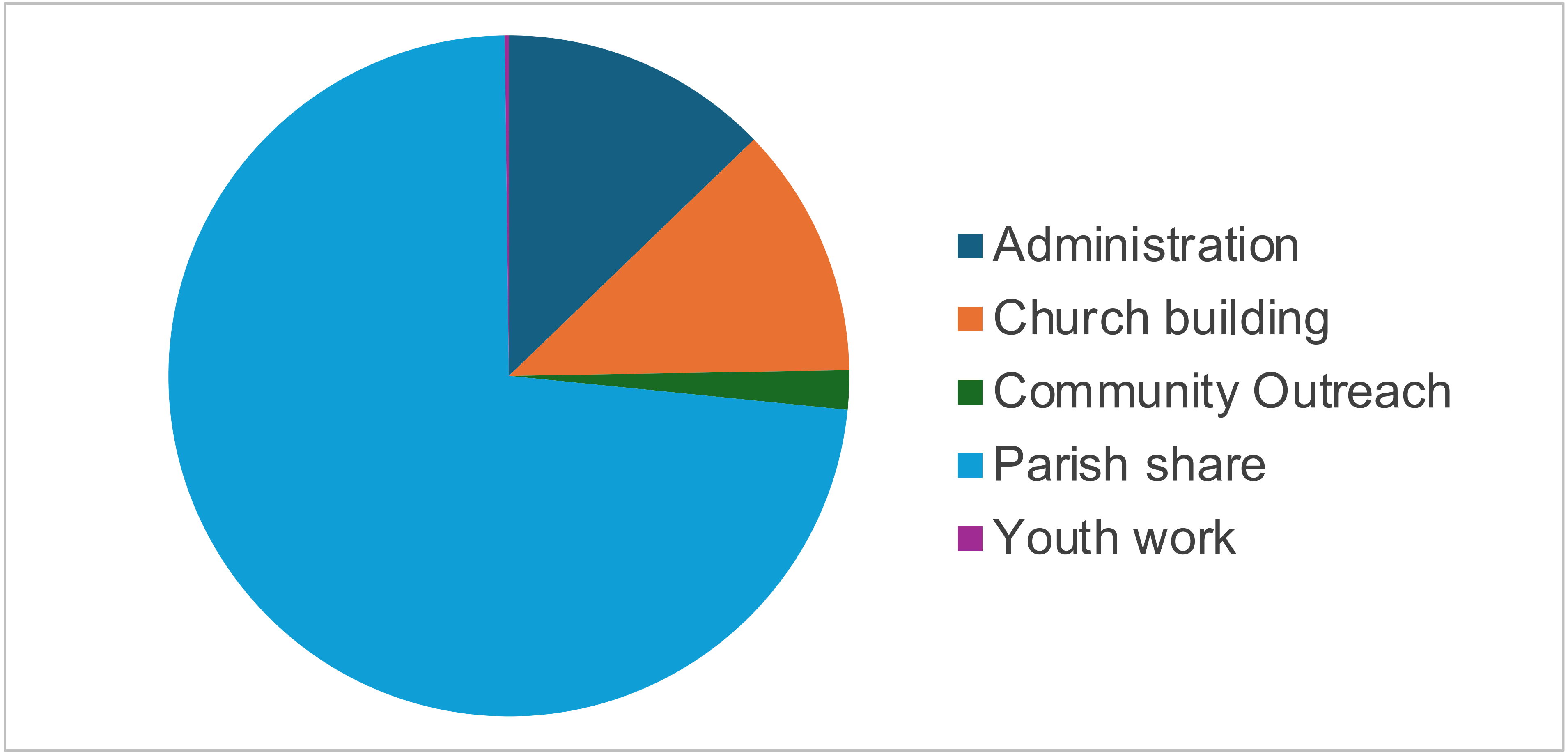
Planned giving

2020 £47,717 + Gift Aid

2024 £49,656 + Gift Aid an increase of 4.06%

(not keeping pace with Inflation or Costs)

Our Parish Finances ..
Where we are and 2025 costs



Our Parish Finances ..
Where we are and 2025 costs

The cost of running our Church in 2025 is predicted to be £102,543

That is £1,971.98 a week without necessary (planned) and surprise repairs and building projects.)

A broadly calculated cost would be £281.71 a day.

Projected Shortfall of funds, Using Planned Giving with Gift Aid to Close the Gap

Where does the money come from?

We receive no local or national government or diocesan support.

As a charity, the church benefits from tax recovery available through Gift Aid. For every £1 we get 25% extra is added from HMRC

When congregation members use the Regular planned giving,
the Church receives Gift Aid the following month,
not a year later as is the case with Blue Envelopes and old Standing orders.

Income Budget for 2025

Planned Regular Giving from our Congregation	£44,890
Collections, donations, occasional gift aid envelopes	£7,260
Tax Recovery - Gift Aid	£14,000
Fees, Events, Hall Hire, Investment Income	£11,850

Projected Shortfall of funds, Using Planned Giving with Gift Aid to Close the Gap

Our Financial Target for 2025/2026

Simply to cover the current deficit we will require a £25,000 (32%) increase in giving, yielding an additional £2,083.00 per month.
To grow our mission and ministry, we need to aim to exceed this amount.

We need to cover our costs and stop running down our remaining reserves, which will all be used in 3 years if we do not take action.

In the last 5 years we have used £48,300 of reserves which took many years to build up.

How can we take steps to cover our costs and keep pace with the rises we have had to cover?

Our Planned Giving needs to increase over the next two years to close the gap

As of 2024/25 we have **64 planned givers**
Our average planned giving **£49.69 per person per month** plus Gift Aid.

12 Planned givers gift 50% of all the total Planned Giving as at 2025.

This is high risk our giving needs a more even spread.

How can we take steps to cover our costs and keep pace with the rises we have had to cover?

If we are able to increase the number of planned givers from 64 to say 74 then more funds would be available for our Vision Mission plans, Outreach and Church improvements

How can we take steps to cover our costs and keep pace with the rises we have had to cover?

£3.00 p/w (cost of a coffee takeaway) if increased by our 64 givers with Gift Aid would = £11,510 increase over 12 months, if we had 10 new givers at the increased average it would add a further £9202 with Gift Aid.

£4.00 p/w (less than a pint of beer) if increased by our 64 givers with Gift Aid would = £15,360 increase over 12 months. if we had 10 new givers at the increased average it would add a further £9843 with Gift Aid.

£5.00 p/w (less than the cost of buying daily papers) if increased by our 64 givers with Gift Aid would = £19,200 increase over 12 months with 10 new givers at the increased average it would add a further £10,443 with Gift Aid.

Our current average monthly giving is £49.69 plus gift aid.

We need to increase giving by £4 / £5 a week per person to cover our costs.

This is ensure we can pay our bills, sustain our ministry costs and ultimately remain a single church parish with our own vicar!

Gift Aid

- Within the **Planned Giving Scheme**,83% of people are able to give through **Gift Aid**, enabling our Treasurer to reclaim income tax of **£2.50 for every £10** given to the church.

- If you gave £15 per week £780 a year
- The Taxman adds another £195 a year
- Under the PGS scheme we receive the tax monthly. Not annually as on the old system.
- If you now find you are now a tax-payer, please claim the gift aid on your Planned Giving. (See Michael Bowler our Planned Giving Secretary)

How Can You Help?

A commitment to give on a regular basis is the most effective way to ensure a regular income for our church. It enables the Parochial Church Council to plan ahead and budget with confidence.

If you are not yet a regular giver to the church, please pray about whether you could consider regular, planned giving.

If you are an existing regular giver, please consider increasing your gift

How Can You Help?

If possible, please make your giving through the Parish Giving Scheme (PSG)

For **new planned givers** use the form enclosed, or for church givers changing from the Blue Envelope to the PGS scheme.

How Can You Help?

- For **existing Church givers already using the Planned Giving Scheme**. To increase your giving, you can do this by one of three ways:

1. Use a letter in the pack addressed to : Planned Giving Scheme, 76 Kingsholm Rd, Gloucester, GL1 3BD, where you fill in your name and address and how much a month you wish to change your monthly giving to.

2. You can phone the Planned Giving team and change the amount of your giving. Please Tel 0333 0021260. They will need to know your name, address and Church; West Moors St Mary the Virgin, Parish code 340634320

3. You can email: **info@parishgiving.org.uk**. Giving the information as in 2 above.

What *can* you give?

Planned giving enables us to plan for our ministry and mission into the future. If you can Gift Aid your donation that is even better! So…

If we all could increase our commitment **monthly** we could:

cover our costs and keep up with inflation which we have not done for 6 years.

Expand our capacity to minister to the people of West Moors, growing our congregation numbers and preserving this community for generations to come!

Some of the church members are able to give more and do so while others' circumstances will mean they cannot give this amount.

We are grateful for anything you can give to support this parish church!

What *can* you give?

Legacy Stewardship

If you are unable to give on a regular basis but could consider leaving a legacy to the church, an unrestricted legacy can be a great gift to this parish.

It is easily achieved through a codicil added to your will, no need for expensive solicitor visits!

For more information, please speak to our Planned Giving Secretary Mike Bowler

What happens next ?

When you leave Church today you will be given a Stewardship pack.

Please review your own stewardship, in the pack are commitment forms, a letter from Lizzie our vicar and a brief review of the information we have gone over today.

We would like you to bring back your reply envelopes to the Sunday Services on the 23rd November ...
8.00am or 10.00 am

(or if it is not possible, please post to the vicarage, or hand it the forms to our Parish Giving Secretary Mike Bowler)

Any Questions ??

Please speak to a member of the Stewardship planning team

1. Churchwardens Louise Collins and Paul Brealey.
2. The Stewardship Secretary Mike Bowler
3. The Vicar, Rev Lizzie
4. Other Stewardship planning team members : Noel Moss-Holland, Alex Clarke

**Committing ourselves to giving on a regular basis helps us to meet
or Visions and missions for St Mary's and our Parochial Church
Council to plan with confidence.**

Thank you for listening!

Our Prayer :

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the gift of life, love, and your son Jesus Christ.

Help us to be generous in return and support our Parish as it seeks to serve you and proclaim the Gospel afresh to each generation.

Amen!

Everyone should give what they have decided in their hearts to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9.7