



St Mary's
Christian
Workers
Trust

Giving & Generosity at St Mary's

*A guide to supporting ministry
through the PCC and the Christian
Workers Trust – 2025 edition*

This booklet is a **joint appeal from two separate charities**, each with its own funds and separate governance structures, working in partnership to support gospel ministry at St Mary's:

- **St Mary's Eastrop Parochial Church Council**
Registered Charity No. **1130650**
Responsible for the ongoing ministry and mission of the church.
- **St Mary's Christian Workers Trust**
Registered Charity No. **1186879**
Responsible for supporting additional staff, funding mission partners and capital projects such as the clergy housing appeal (explained in this booklet).

Together, these two charities play distinct but complementary roles in sustaining and strengthening gospel ministry at St Mary's.

Welcome

Dear church family,

Everything we do at St Mary's happens because of God's generosity to us in Christ, and because of the generosity of his people. Thank you for your prayers, your service, and your financial support.

This booklet sets out:

- **Why** Christians give.
- **What** your giving enables at St Mary's.
- **How** to give simply and securely.
- **The particular needs we face this year.**

Our goal is not to pressure anyone. Instead, we invite every member of our church family to consider their giving prayerfully and intentionally.

Why Christians give

- **God is generous** – We give because God has first given to us: *“Though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich”* (2 Corinthians 8:9).
- **Growing to be like God** – Generosity shapes our hearts: *“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”* (Matthew 6:21).
- **Growing mission** – evangelism, discipleship, and serving our community are all made possible through God’s people giving together (Philippians 4:17–19).
- **Grace-led** – The New Testament encourages cheerful, joyful and planned giving: *“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

What your giving enables

Your giving funds all of St Mary's ministry. Every pound given is turned into ministry opportunities:

- **Word & Worship** – supporting staff who preach and teach God's Word; resourcing Sundays and midweek gatherings; supporting everything that goes into helping people hear the gospel clearly.
- **Children, Youth & Families** – Sunday children's groups, youth groups, safeguarding, college-age discipleship, support for events.
- **Care & Community** – pastoral care, small group development, prayer, welcome and hospitality, outreach in the parish, partnerships with local ministries.
- **Mission & Training** – training leaders, pioneering new ministry opportunities in Eastrop, Riverdene and Black Dam, resourcing orthodox ministry beyond St Mary's across the diocese.
- **Buildings & Admin** – utilities, office supplies, insurance, and administration that keep the ministry running.

The need this year

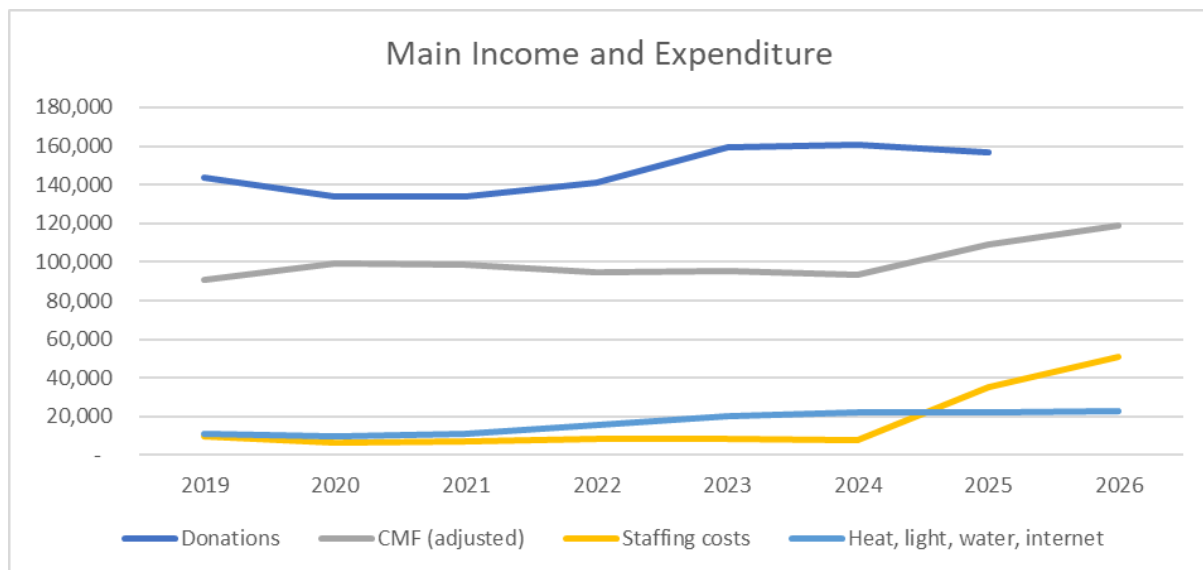
This year, we are asking for support in **two different but complementary ways**. Both are vital for sustaining and strengthening gospel ministry at St Mary's, but they are handled through two separate legal entities.

1. The PCC –

Ongoing Ministry Costs

- The PCC is responsible for funding the **day-to-day ministry and mission of St Mary's**.
- This year, we have already taken the important step of adding an **Associate Minister** to our staff team. Reflecting our Five Year Strategy, the role strengthens our capacity to teach God's Word, pastor our growing congregation, develop our small group ministry and reach our parish.
- **This role is funded by the PCC.**
- It's important to note that because the Associate Minister is a **stipendiary Church of England minister** — that is, someone who receives a **living allowance (stipend)** rather than a salary — the Diocese of Winchester provides his stipend, pension, and national insurance. These costs are then **invoiced to the PCC**, which is responsible for funding them. That is why his role is funded through the PCC, not through the Christian Workers Trust (which supports other St Mary's staff).

- In 2025, our PCC faces additional and significant needs:
 - **Supporting our new Associate Minister** – a vital new role, already begun, that we want to now sustain together.
 - **An increased mission contribution** – our giving to the **Common Mission Fund** (see FAQs for an explanation) has risen following an increase in congregation numbers. Our contribution (above the amount for covering the costs of the Rector) is channelled through the **Ephesian Fund**, ensuring that money is used in supporting orthodox parishes for gospel work across the diocese.
 - **Rising costs** – like many households and organisations, we face **higher energy bills and increased costs** of maintaining our buildings and running the ministry.
 - This graph shows how St Mary's biggest expense items have increased over the last five years and will increase in 2026, and how they compare with giving income over the same period.



- We are asking every member of St Mary's to:
 - **Review your regular giving for 2025/2026.**
 - **Begin planned giving if you have not already.** Even modest amounts, given regularly, make a big difference when added together.
 - **Consider whether you can increase your giving this year** to help sustain our new Associate Minister and cover rising costs.
- This is very achievable together:
 - **If 100 people each gave an extra £40/month** (about £9/week), we would cover the need.
 - Or if **60 people increased their giving by £50/month**, and **20 new givers started at**

£40/month, we would meet the target together.

- Or if **40 people increased by £25/month**, **30 people by £40/month**, and **20 new givers joined at £35/month**, we would cover what's needed.
- Some will be able to give more, others less. Some will be starting to give for the first time, and others might need to adjust because of life changes. Together, we can meet this opportunity.

2. The Christian Workers Trust – A One-off Capital Project

Alongside the PCC's ongoing needs, the **Christian Workers Trust (CWT)** — an entirely separate entity with its own funds and governance — is launching a one-off capital project: **the purchase of a new house.**

Why a new house?

For many years, the Christian Workers Trust has owned **4 Rothay Court (4RC)**, originally purchased to provide housing for a youth worker. We are thankful for the ways God has used this property to support gospel ministry over the years.

In recent years, with the recruitment of additional staff and the requirements of minimum wage legislation, it has been fairer and more suitable to provide staff with higher salaries (to enable them to

pay for accommodation themselves) rather than tied housing for select roles. However, stipendiary clergy are different: the Church of England requires that a house be provided for ordained ministers for ministry and living.

At present, our new Associate Minister is living in a curate's house owned by the Diocese of Winchester, which is only a temporary arrangement — it must be available again if a future curate is appointed to any church in Basingstoke. In the meantime, we are paying **significant rent** for this house, which is not a sensible long-term solution.

We considered using 4RC for clergy housing, but, sadly, it does not meet the Church of England's clergy housing requirements. After prayer and careful consideration, the Trustees have identified a suitable property within the parish that does meet these requirements. This house will provide a proper and reliable base for ordained ministers at St Mary's, both now and for future generations.

Although the new property costs more than 4RC, it represents a **strategic and cost-effective investment in gospel ministry** at St Mary's. The purchase will remove ongoing rental costs and, importantly, the house will be **owned by the Christian**

Workers Trust. This means future clergy serving at St Mary's will have suitable housing provided for them, with the security of ownership remaining in the hands of the CWT.

How much is needed?

The Trust plans to sell 4 Rothay Court and use the proceeds towards the new purchase.

About **£380,000** is required to complete the purchase, and the CWT is prepared to use **£190,000 of its reserves** to support the project. This means that **if the congregation can pledge around £190,000**, the project will be achievable.

Our first priority is to secure the new house. If more is pledged than required, any surplus will be used by the Trust for the work of gospel ministry at St Mary's — for example, supporting staff costs. If less is raised, the Trustees will review the project prayerfully and ensure that all funds are used responsibly for ministry at St Mary's.

How could this work in practice?

It's a large figure, but it becomes manageable if everyone plays their part. For example:

- If 100 people pledged around £2,000 each (about £165/month for a year), we'd reach the target.
- Or, if 200 people each gave £1,000 (about £85/month for a year), we'd also get there.

Some people may be able to give larger sums of money, for instance:

- 10 people giving £10,000 each would raise £100,000.
- 20 people giving £5,000 each would raise another £100,000.
- And through **Gift Aid**, if £150,000 is given from taxed income, we can reclaim a further **£37,500 from HMRC at no extra cost to donors.**

Of course, gifts of **any size** will contribute — some will be able to give more, others less. Together, we can make this possible.

Timing

At this stage, the Trust is asking for **pledges**, not immediate cash. Pledges will first be collected, then later a payment request, once the house finances and purchase arrangements are in place.

Ongoing CWT Support

Alongside this one-off capital project, the Christian Workers Trust will continue to fund staff and ministry and our Mission Partners as it has in previous years. Please continue your regular giving to the CWT if you are able. And if you would like to start giving to the CWT then please return the response form.

How to respond

- Please prayerfully consider whether you can pledge a one-off gift.
- Pledge forms will be provided separately, with clear instructions on how to register your commitment.

Remember: **Donations for the PCC's ongoing ministry and for the CWT's house project must be kept separate**, as they are legally separate entities.

Leaving a Gift in Your Will

After providing for your loved ones, a gift in your will to St Mary's PCC (or to the Christian Workers Trust) can make a lasting difference to gospel ministry.

The PCC have a policy of using legacy gifts for **unexpected or one-off expenditure** — such as major building projects, new ministry opportunities, or other investments in the future. This means that your gift will make a visible, lasting difference, rather than being absorbed into everyday costs.

Even a small gift can help:

- train and support gospel workers,
- strengthen ministry among children, youth, and families,
- resource outreach and mission, or
- improve our buildings for long-term service.

We recommend gifts be left for **general purposes** so they can be used where most needed, but you can also specify a particular area if you wish.

Suggested wording for your will

“I give to St Mary’s Eastrop PCC (Registered Charity no. 1130650) [or to the Christian Workers Trust, Registered Charity no. 1186879] the sum of £____ / ____% of the residue of my estate for its general charitable purposes, and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other authorised officer shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.”

We strongly recommend you consult a solicitor when making or revising your will.

Will Aid – make or update your will

Each **November**, many UK solicitors take part in **Will Aid**, waiving their usual fee for a simple will in exchange for a **voluntary donation to charity**. It’s a cheaper and easier way to update your will while supporting good causes.

You can use Will Aid to include a gift to either the **PCC** or the **Christian Workers Trust**. Both are registered charities and qualify to receive legacies.

Find participating solicitors at www.willaid.org.uk — bookings open in the autumn and fill up quickly.

How to Give

Because the PCC and the Christian Workers Trust are separate charities, there are **two different ways to give**, depending on which appeal you are supporting.

1. Giving to the PCC

(Ongoing Ministry Costs)

The PCC relies on the regular giving of church members to sustain ministry. Regular, planned gifts, no matter how large or small, allow us to budget responsibly.

Ways to give:

1. **Standing Order / Bank Transfer** – This is the best way to give regularly.
 - *If you already give by Standing Order, please continue using the existing account — and you can increase your gift this way if you wish.*
 - *If you are starting to give for the first time, or setting up a brand-new Standing Order, we are moving to a new giving account. Full details will be sent out shortly by email and on paper so you can set this up easily. In the*

meantime, please complete the Response Form so we can ensure you get the details.

2. **Online or Card Giving** – through the church office (please indicate on the Response Form, and we will arrange this).
3. **Cash or Cheque** – cheques payable to *St Mary's Eastrop PCC*. For Gift Aid, please use a Gift Aid envelope.

2. Giving to the CWT (House Project)

The CWT is asking for **pledges towards the £190,000 needed** to secure a new clergy house.

- Pledges will be collected during October 2025.
- Actual gifts will be requested once the sale of 4RC and final purchase arrangements are in place.
- Gifts for this project must be made **directly to the CWT**, not the PCC.

How to pledge:

- A separate **CWT Pledge Form** will be provided, with details of how to register your commitment.
- When the time comes to give, CWT will supply payment details.

Gift Aid – add 25% at no extra cost

If you are making a gift out of taxed income, please complete a Gift Aid declaration. This allows us to reclaim **25p for every £1** you give.

- For **PCC giving**, complete the PCC's Gift Aid declaration (included with the response form).
- For **CWT gifts**, complete the Gift Aid declaration attached to the Pledge Form.

Please note: Gift Aid declarations cannot be shared between charities — you must complete one for each if you give to both.

Tax Relief for Higher Rate Taxpayers

If you're a higher-rate taxpayer in the UK (paying 40% or 45% income tax), you can claim additional tax relief when you donate to charity using Gift Aid.

How It Works

- You donate **£100** to a charity.

- **The charity claims Gift Aid**, making your donation worth £125 to them.
- **You claim tax relief** on the £125 gross donation:
 - If you pay 40% tax, you can claim back 20% of £125 = **£25**
 - If you pay 45% tax, you can claim back 25% of £125 = **£31.25**
- This reduces the *effective* cost of your £100 donation to as little as **£68.75**.

How to Claim the Tax Relief

You must claim the additional tax relief yourself—HMRC doesn't do this automatically. You can do so by:

- Completing a **Self Assessment tax return**, or
- Asking HMRC to adjust your **tax code**, which can reduce the tax deducted from your salary or pension.

If you're unsure, a tax adviser or accountant can help ensure you receive the full relief you're entitled to.

This makes charitable giving even more impactful—both for the church and your personal finances, potentially enabling you to give more.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Should I give if I'm visiting or not a Christian?

A. No. We're delighted you're with us, but this appeal is for those who consider St Mary's their church family.

Q. How much should I give regularly?

A. The Bible gives us principles rather than fixed rules. In the Old Testament, God's people gave a **tithe (10%)** of their income as a starting point (Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:10). In the New Testament, giving is shaped by grace and generosity — often **beyond the tithe** (see Acts 4:34–35) — as each person decides in their heart (2 Corinthians 9:6–8).

A good practice is to pray, decide on a proportion of your income (for many Christians, 10% is a helpful guide), and then review it yearly or as circumstances change.

Q. How much should I give to the one-off appeal?

A. This is a one-off opportunity to secure housing for ministry at St Mary's. Some will be able to give large sums, others, smaller. Think of it a little like a

household project — if you were saving up for a home extension or replacing a car, you might dip into savings to make it possible because you believe it's worth the investment. In the same way, we are asking church members to consider what they could set aside, one time, for this long-term gospel need.

Together, all gifts — whether large or small — will help us reach the target of £190,000.

Q. Why is the Associate Minister funded through the PCC, rather than the Christian Workers Trust?

A. The key difference is that the Associate Minister is a stipendiary Church of England minister. That means the Diocese of Winchester employs him, pays his stipend, national insurance and pension, and then invoices the PCC for the costs. For this reason, his role is funded via the PCC.

Q. Why can't 4 Rothay Court continue to be used?

A. Although 4 Rothay Court is owned by the CWT, the Church of England has specific requirements for clergy housing that the property cannot meet. The new house in the parish does — securing long-term ministry here.

Q. What are the Church of England's requirements for clergy housing?

A. Stipendiary clergy in the Church of England are

normally provided with a house as part of their role. These houses are expected to be suitable for both family life and ministry. That usually means enough bedrooms for a family, a living space that can be used by the family, along with a second reception room for small meetings.

If a property does not meet these expectations — for example, because of its size, layout, or condition — it cannot be used long-term as clergy housing. That is why 4RC is not suitable, and why the Trustees are seeking to purchase a house that does meet the Church of England's requirements.

Q. Doesn't the Church of England (or the government) fund the church?

A. No. Neither the government nor the national Church of England provides funding for the day-to-day ministry of St Mary's. At St Mary's, our ministry is funded almost entirely by the regular giving of our congregation. The only money that comes to us through the diocese is what we give first, through the Parish Share/Common Mission Fund system, which is then used to provide stipends and pensions for clergy.

Q. What is the Common Mission Fund (Parish Share), and why do we contribute?

A. Every Church of England parish is invited to contribute to the **Common Mission Fund (CMF)**, often called the **Parish Share**. This covers the stipend, housing, and pension of clergy, as well as training new ministers along with all the diocesan support services (such as legal, safeguarding and HR). At St Mary's, our share first pays for the costs of our Rector, then covers diocesan support services to the church and then any further contribution supports wider gospel ministry across the diocese.

Q. I'm concerned about the direction of the Church of England. How can I be sure my giving isn't used in ways I don't support?

A. We share this concern and want to reassure you. Our contribution beyond the Rector's costs is directed through the Ephesian Fund, which ensures resources go specifically to orthodox parishes committed to gospel ministry. So, your giving sustains ministry here at St Mary's and strengthens faithful churches elsewhere. Find out more: www.ephesianfund.org.uk

Q. Can I give to both the PCC and the CWT?

A. Yes. Many will want to continue or increase their regular PCC giving while also pledging a one-off gift to the CWT. Just remember: they are legally separate structures, so the gifts must be kept separate.

How to Respond

1. For the PCC appeal:

- Complete the PCC Response Form (or the online version — scan the QR code or visit stmarys-basingstoke.org.uk/about-us/giving).
- Decide whether to start, continue, or increase your regular giving. **Even if you are not changing your giving, it is very helpful to have a confirmation of this by completing the form.**
- Complete the PCC Gift Aid declaration, if eligible.



2. For the CWT house project:

- Complete a CWT Pledge Form (provided separately).
- Indicate how much you would like to pledge towards the £190,000 target.
- Complete the CWT Gift Aid declaration, if eligible.

Thank You

Thank you for considering how you can support the gospel ministry of St Mary's through your giving.

- Your **regular giving to the PCC** funds ongoing ministry.
- Your **pledge to the Christian Workers Trust** secures housing for future ministry.

Together, these two appeals will ensure that St Mary's is equipped both for today and for generations to come.