

Giving & Generosity at St Mary's

**Supporting Gospel
Ministry in 2027**

INTRODUCTION FROM THE PCC AND CHRISTIAN WORKERS TRUST

Dear church family,

Everything we do at St Mary's happens because of God's generosity to us in Christ, expressed through his people.

Thank you for all the ways you give, serve and pray. Through that generosity, we can reach all ages across our town and beyond with the good news of Jesus, build up his followers in the church, and send people out to take the gospel elsewhere.

As we look towards 2027, **we are asking everyone who considers St Mary's their church family to review their regular giving and let us know their response by Sunday 25 October.**

If you already give, could you continue or increase your giving as your circumstances allow? If you have not yet begun to give regularly, could you start?

We know that circumstances differ. For some, they might only be able to give a little; others may be in a position to give significantly more. Our giving is never meant to be under duress or done begrudgingly. It is a joyful response to the generosity of Christ, who "became poor" so that we "might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

To sustain our current ministry in 2027, the PCC and CWT together need an additional £72,000 a year in regular giving.

That is a significant challenge. But shared across our church family, we believe it is achievable. In what follows, we explain the need and how you can respond.

Thank you for prayerfully considering the part you might play,
Rob, Ali, David and Duncan

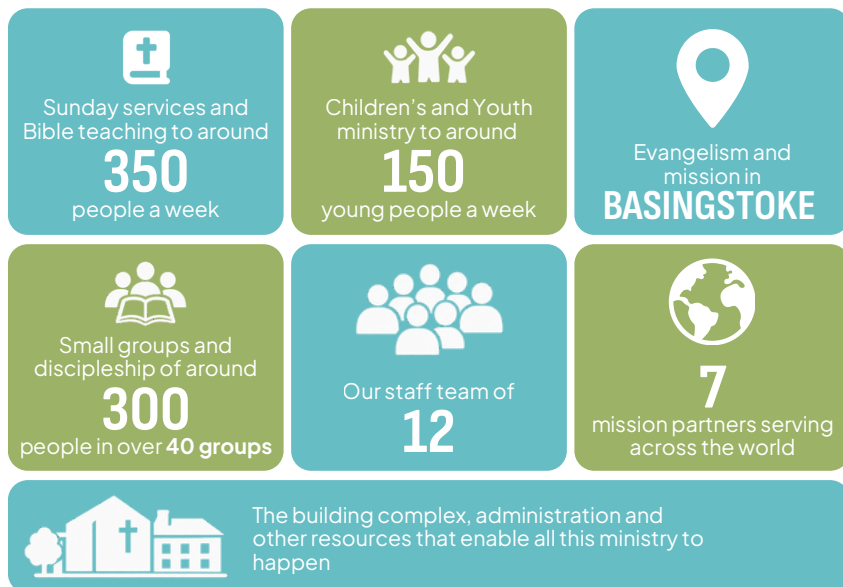


The St Mary's PCC and Christian Workers Trust (CWT) are two separate charities working in partnership to support gospel ministry at St Mary's.

WHAT YOUR GIVING MAKES POSSIBLE

St Mary's ministry is funded chiefly by the generosity of its church family. We receive no government grants or subsidies from the Diocese towards our ministry. Our mission depends on us giving together to make it possible.

Your giving supports:



Our ministry is supported by **two separate charities**, each with its own trustees, finances and responsibilities:

St Mary's PCC funds the church's ministry and mission, our buildings and our Common Mission Fund contribution to the Diocese of Winchester. The Common Mission Fund includes the cost of the Rector and diocesan support services.

The Christian Workers Trust (CWT) funds the majority of our other staff costs and our support for mission partners serving beyond Basingstoke. The PCC pays staff salaries, but the CWT funds this by providing the PCC with a monthly grant.

The two charities work closely together in supporting gospel ministry at St Mary's, but giving to each is separate.

THE PCC: OUR CHALLENGE FOR 2027

The **PCC** needs an additional **£19,000** a year to meet a Common Mission Fund (CMF) request and other increased running costs.

There is an 11.8% increase in our requested contribution to the CMF—or around £14,000. The increase is in part because of growth in St Mary’s numbers (nearly 7%) and because of increased costs of supporting clergy (5%).

The CMF helps meet the costs of parish ministry, including clergy stipends, housing and pensions, as well as training and diocesan services such as safeguarding, HR and legal support.

For churches like St Mary’s who contribute more, we support smaller gospel churches who simply wouldn’t have the resources to sustain ministry. Our contribution goes through the Ephesian Fund, which requires the Diocese to allocate it only to qualifying churches whose minister and/or PCC endorses the Fund’s Basis of Faith. More information can be found on the giving page of the website.

In addition to CMF, our costs of ministry continue to rise—reflecting the increased cost of living we all experience.



£19,000

Additional annual income needed for the PCC

To sustain our church ministry, buildings and our CMF contribution to the Diocese of Winchester

£232,000 estimated expenditure for 2027

£213,000 anticipated income (based on 2026)

THE CWT: OUR CHALLENGE FOR 2027

**St Mary’s
Christian
Workers
Trust**

The **CWT** needs an additional **£53,000** a year, to sustain our investment in the staff team and our commitment to wider mission.

The CWT would like to express their thanks for the generous response of the church family last year in providing most of the cost of purchasing the Associate House. We recognise that many in the church family gave considerably and generously to secure a house for an Associate Minister.

We have deliberately invested in the staff team to grow the ministry of the church. However, those increased costs need to be sustained going forward. For 2026, the

CWT used some of its reserves to fund the increased staff costs. However, those reserves will not be there beyond next year, without increased giving.

We have also continued our commitment to supporting mission partners working beyond Basingstoke, allocating £40,000 for 2027 (up by about £4,000 from previous years). This reflects our desire to support gospel ministry both locally and further afield.

The requested £53,000 is the amount needed to sustain the ministry we now have.

To sustain our staff team and our commitment to mission partners beyond Basingstoke

£283,000 estimated expenditure for 2027
£230,000 anticipated income (based on 2026)

£53,000

Additional annual income needed for the CWT



SMALL CHANGES. A BIG DIFFERENCE.

Both charities need increased regular giving in 2027. We hope this will come both from **existing givers reviewing their giving** and from **more members of our growing church family beginning to give regularly**.

For example:

PCC

 Existing regular giving increases by **5%**

 **+10** new givers

 With each new household giving an average of **£100/month**

 Together, these changes would meet the PCC's **£19,000** need.

CWT

 Existing regular giving increases by **5%**

 **+30** new givers

 With each new household giving an average of **£115/month**

 Together, these changes would meet the PCC's **£53,000** need.

These are illustrations, not targets for individuals. Some will be able to give considerably more, others less, and some will not be able to increase their giving at all.

But together—through existing givers reviewing their giving and new givers beginning—we believe meeting the need is achievable.

CAN YOU REVIEW YOUR GIVING?

We would love everyone who considers St Mary's their church family to ask:

Could I start?

If you do not currently give regularly, could you begin?

Could I increase?

If you already give, could you increase your regular giving as your circumstances allow?

Could I give more?

If God has given you particular financial capacity, could you consider a larger increase that helps us meet this need?

Do I need to change my giving in another way?

We recognise that circumstances change. For some, the right response may be to continue at the same level or even to reduce their giving.

Whatever your circumstances, **please respond by Sunday 25 October, even if your giving will stay the same.** Knowing this helps both charities plan responsibly for the year ahead.

FURTHER INVESTMENT

Our immediate priority is to sustain our current ministry. But we also want to keep looking ahead.

We believe there is potential to strengthen our ministry further by investing additional staff resources in our Sunday services and music ministry. This could help us develop more distinct approaches to our morning and evening congregations and, as the church continues to grow, consider establishing additional congregations.

These are not commitments already made, and **the £72,000 appeal is about sustaining our current ministry.**

But if giving exceeded our current need, it could enable us to invest further in the growth of gospel ministry at St Mary's.

ONE INVITATION, TWO RESPONSES

The PCC and CWT are separate charities. If you make a new gift, **you need to choose which charity receives it.** Many people give to both charities; others choose to support one. Giving to either supports our shared gospel ministry.

Because they are legally separate charities, you will need to complete the relevant response for each. The two charities cannot exchange your personal giving information.

Your response form allows you to tell us that you will:

- continue giving at your current level
- increase your giving
- begin giving
- reduce your giving
- or would like a conversation about giving.

GIFT AID

If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid allows us to claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give, at no extra cost to you.

We think there may be some regular givers for whom we are eligible to claim Gift Aid but who have not yet completed a declaration. Please check that we have an up-to-date Gift Aid declaration for you—it's a simple way to make your giving go further.

RESPONSE SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER

Two weeks after the launch of the appeal, we would like the whole church family to respond to the appeal.

You can respond by paper form at either the 10am or 6pm service or return it to the secure post-box at reception, or use the confidential online form by scanning the QR code or visiting stmarys-basingstoke.org.uk/giving-appeal-2027



If you are away on 25 October, please respond beforehand or use the online form.

We hope to hear from every household that calls St Mary's home.

Only the Stewardship Secretary of the relevant charity will see individual amounts. We will share the overall response with the church later in November, explain any remaining gap and agree the appropriate next steps through the PCC and CWT.

WHY WE GIVE

Ultimately, this is not simply about balancing a budget. We give because God has first given generously to us. Our giving is not to be under duress or done begrudgingly. God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7), and our giving is shaped by the generosity of Christ, who "though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Giving is one of the ways we express our thankfulness to God and our partnership together in the gospel.

MORE INFORMATION

Please visit the giving page on the church website, or speak to the church office if you cannot easily access it, for more information about: why the increase now; how to give regularly; Gift Aid; tax relief for higher-rate taxpayers; how much Christians should give; leaving a gift in your will; concerns about the Church of England and how we use the Ephesian Fund to support gospel ministry.



THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to pray, review your giving and respond.

We are deeply grateful for every gift, large or small, and for the many ways in which the St Mary's church family gives, serves and prays.

Together, our giving enables us to know Jesus and make him known—at St Mary's, across Basingstoke and beyond.