

*Planned*  
**GIVING 2021–22**



So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen,  
since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:18

# Planned Giving 2021–22

It has been 20 months since March 2020 when the severity of the Covid-19 global pandemic became widely known. This has presented each of us with challenges.

The churches in our parish, the diocese and elsewhere have also been affected by these challenges. Our churches have responded to support not just our members but also the wider community. Weekly services have been video streamed. Virtual coffee meetings have been arranged. The churches have been open, and supervised, for specified times providing a quiet place for those who needed a place to pray or think. The gardens of our churches have been maintained and open to all. For some these gardens provided a safe place outside their homes. Many members of the congregation have continued to support charitable groups such as Glass Door. The clergy have provided invaluable pastoral support.

Each of these activities demonstrates the continued relevance of the church in today's society. However, each activity has been given extra relevance in this situation.

The continuation of many of these activities would not have been possible without the generosity of those who support the church, including financially. Critical to our financial wellbeing is the parish's Planned Giving Scheme. These donations provide the majority of the parish's revenue. Their regularity makes it possible for our churches to plan with confidence that money will be available in the future, even in the depth of a global pandemic, when other sources of income such as room hire may have been reduced. They also allow us to contribute to the wider diocese, supporting the church's work in less well-off areas. Those who give on a less regular, yet also committed, way also support the activities of the church and we are also grateful for their generosity.

The pandemic will have affected each of us and our households in differing ways. Some may have benefitted. Some are likely to face difficulty. We also have much to be thankful for. Our giving is one of the ways in which we can give expression to our thankfulness. Please consider your own financial position carefully when reviewing your financial commitment to the parish. If you are not a member of the planned giving scheme, please consider joining. Your commitment will allow us to continue to make a real difference to the communities that we serve.

## Likely outcome from the parish General Accounts for 2021

### Income highlights

- Total amount raised by Planned Giving, including gift aid: £330,000 (5% decrease expected)
- Other donations and collections (excluding legacies): £15,000
- Vernon Road letting income: £20,000

### Expenses highlights

- Payment to parish support fund: £283,000
- Clergy stipend contribution: £10,500
- Mission: £21,000
- Running expenses, staff costs, insurance, house and church upkeep: £65,000

### Overall outcome

Earlier in the year the PCC approved the annual budget for 2021 showing a £2,000 deficit. The latest estimate is that we will incur a deficit in the order of £10,000.

### Observation

The Parish is forecasting a deficit for the second year running – this has happened in the past but we have a habit of bouncing back and we have reasonable reserves so there is no need to panic! But your continued (and in some cases new) support is really important for now and for the future – many thanks again for your donations from everyone in the Parish. It's the Planned Giving Scheme that gives us confidence. The figures given above are estimates, for more detail on the actual historic finances please contact the Parish Office for a copy of the 2020 Accounts.

**If you are not in the Planned Giving scheme, please join.**



### Have you considered including the church in your will?

A legacy to the church would help the parish continue its important work.

**NONE OF US IS GETTING ANY YOUNGER!**

# Questions and answers

## What is planned giving?

Planned giving is a commitment by a member of the church to give an amount of money to the church on a regular basis. For the vast majority, this involves paying an amount into the parish bank account each month. About 70% of the parish's income comes from planned giving and associated gift aid supplement from HMRC. The commitment and regularity allows the church to plan with confidence.

## How much should I give?

Nobody should give more than they can afford. In the past, the church indicated five per cent of net income as an aspiration.

## What is the parish support scheme?

One of the great things about the Church of England is that we work together. Rather than each church paying for its own vicar and all the other costs of ministry, we pool resources, with richer parishes supporting poorer ones. This means we can put clergy in the places where they are needed most. Parishes are asked to make a pledge (that is a commitment to pay a certain amount for the year) which is realistic but challenging with a spirit of generosity.

## Do members of the clergy know who is in the giving scheme?

No. The planned giving representative for each church knows for their own church only and the parish treasurer keeps records across all three churches in the parish.



If you have any further questions, please contact your own Church representative:

<b>St Mary's</b>	Matthew Pass	0777 5656 055	matthewpass@yahoo.com
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