

PLANNED GIVING 2024–25

Supporting each other



“For it is in giving that we receive”
Extract from the Prayer of St Francis

Planned Giving 2024-25

The cost of living remains the most important issue facing people in the UK according to the Office for National Statistics. Prices are not rising as fast as in the past few years. Nevertheless, many in our congregation and elsewhere find it difficult to make ends meet.

These difficulties make it more remarkable that many in our parish continue to give generously, supporting the activities of not only our three churches but also those in less fortunate parishes. Your giving supports the less fortunate parishes through the amount sent to the Parish Support Fund. Without this fund, many churches in the diocese would be without retained clergy. The Planned Giving team thank all who give. So too does the Diocese, as the note below from John Kiddle makes clear.

This leaflet outlines the headline items of the financial accounts of the parish. It is difficult to balance the budget. As a result, we ask each person to reflect and review the amount they give. It may be possible that you can increase that amount. For others, this may not be possible. Only you can make that decision. Remember, nobody should give more than they can afford.

If you wish to discuss your giving or join the scheme, contact your church's Planned Giving representative. Contact details for your representative are shown on the back page of this leaflet.

A message from Venerable John Kiddle, Archdeacon of Wandsworth

The first thing to say is thank you. The parish of Mortlake with East Sheen has a magnificent history of generous and joyful support for the Parish Support Fund which enables the ministry of parish churches across the Diocese of Southwark. Thank you for your commitment to this continued support. It makes a massive difference; it is a vital enabler of the ministry both in this parish and many others.

One of the wonderful things about the Archdeaconry of Wandsworth is its diversity. It is my privilege to help support the life of all its parishes. I could not do so, were it not for your generosity in supporting ministry in parishes that couldn't otherwise afford a full-time priest. St Paul teaches us that our giving is like seed planting. Generous sowing produces a generous harvest. He also reminds us that God loves a cheerful giver. The spirit in which we give is as important as how much we give.

The Parish Support Fund, that your giving supports so brilliantly, is not a tax, it's not even a demand, it's an invitation to give generously and cheerfully; in celebration of the living partnership between parishes and communities.

Thank you very much indeed for your love, your prayers and your partnership

Likely outcome from the parish General Accounts for 2024

Income highlights

Total amount raised by Planned Giving, including gift aid: £334,000

One off gift (including gift aid): £25,000

Other donations and collections (excluding legacies): £24,000

Houses letting income: £40,000

Investment income: £18,000

Expenses highlights

Payment to parish support fund: £291,000

Clergy stipend contribution: £21,000

Clergy house repairs: £15,000

Mission: £21,000

Heat and light: £32,000 (approximately £12,000 less than the 2023 level)

Running expenses, staff costs, insurance, house and church upkeep: £74,000

Overall outcome

Earlier in the year the PCC approved the annual budget for 2024 showing a £5,000 surplus – boosted (compared to last year) by a very generous donation to the Giving Scheme. However the latest estimate is that the outcome is more likely to be a breakeven. In the background the churches have positive ‘Donations Accounts’ following generous legacies. ANY LEGACY IS CONSIDERED GENEROUS!



Have you considered including the church in your will?

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

Our Charity Commission number is 1132303

Observation

As noted above, the Parish is forecasting a breakeven after four years of deficit. But this is after the generous donation referred to above. We also expect a significant reduction in the investment income. So there are serious financial matters to be addressed. Accordingly, we are forming a ‘Financial Strategy’ Committee to look at the longer term issues for the Parish.

The figures given above are estimates. For more detail on the actual historic finances please contact the Parish Office for a copy of the 2023 accounts.

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

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 80% of the parish's income comes from planned giving and associated gift aid supplement from HMRC. The commitment and regularity allows the parish 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 Fund?

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. The head of the planned giving team has similar information to the parish treasurer.

If you have any questions, please contact the representative in your church.



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