

Giving in its broadest sense, enables our church to flourish and grow. Giving includes volunteering time, utilising our unique gifts and talents and sharing financial resources. In this short paper we will look at the latter, and explain why financial giving on a regular committed basis is vital to our mission and ministry here at All Saints.

As a parish in the Church of England, we receive no central funding, and so rely entirely on the financial generosity of those who visit and worship here. We all have a role to play in All Saints' well being and stewardship if we are to pass the legacy on to the next generation. The invitation to give is for everyone.

Giving doesn't just pay for our overheads and ministry costs, it allows us to reach out to the local community to bring the good news of Jesus Christ. As a church we are committed to put All Saints at the heart of our community. Our vision is to be a vibrant, inclusive, compassionate, outward looking church with a sensitive and thoughtful approach to faith, where there is excellent pastoral care with encouragement for all, where diversity is welcomed and our worship inspires us to transform the world. Our shared vision for mission to grow God's Kingdom is only possible if the vision is fully resourced.

God has given us so much and our giving in response to this should be generous and joyful. He does not want us to give reluctantly or begrudgingly, but because we want to respond willingly to what He has already, freely done for us.

Whether you already give regularly to All Saints, have never considered planning your giving before, or perhaps feel it's maybe time to review the amount you give, we hope you find the following information helpful.

It is with immense gratitude that we receive all financial gifts no matter how big or small.

Thank you for supporting our church.

Why we need regular financial support

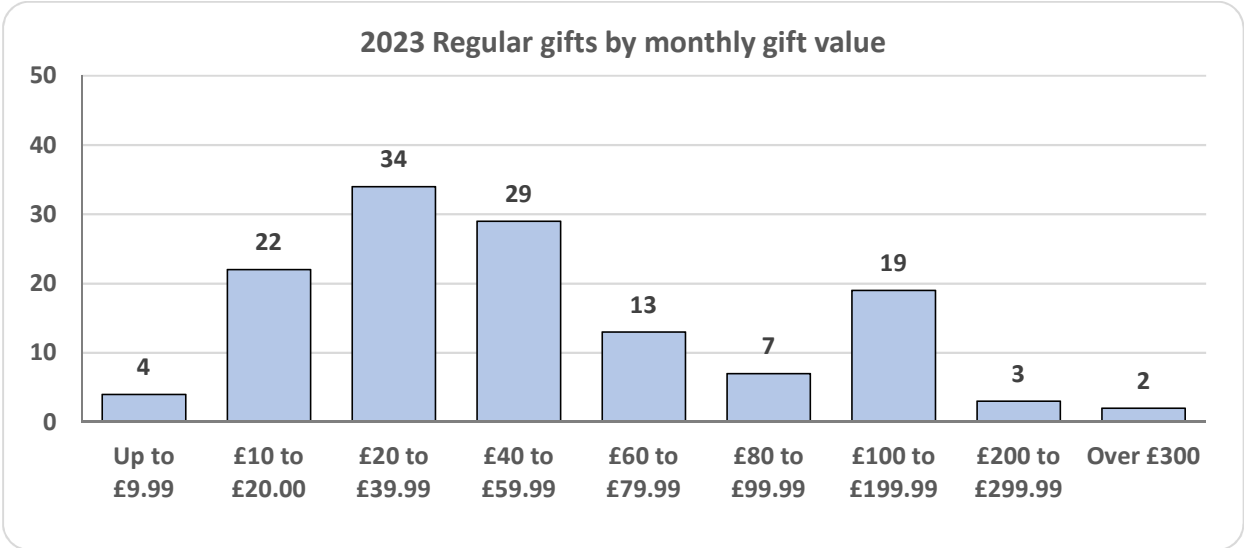
Our total expenditure this year is forecast to be £208,000. In other words, it costs £570 per day to keep All Saints' running and contributing to the wider church. Our total income does not cover this amount so we are currently forecasting a £26,000 deficit. If income stays the same next year, our deficit will inevitably grow due to inflationary pressures and further erode our financial reserves.

Some income is generated from hall hire, property lettings, fees, fund raising and general donations however our most significant source of income comes from '**regular planned giving**'.

Putting to one side the change in membership numbers, our underlying planned giving has remained largely static since the beginning of 2018, whilst costs have continued to rise. Had giving increased over the last six years by the rate of the CPI our income would have increased by approximately £13,000.

Since the start of 2018 our planned giving membership has declined significantly with the number of contributors sadly falling from 157 to 130 people despite 15 new members. This fall in membership has had a net impact on income of £16,000.

The chart below provides a profile of the number of regular gifts by **monthly gift value**.



How should I give?

To be able to plan and fulfil our vision and objectives we need a regular flow of funds. We do this primarily through our planned giving scheme where members contribute a regular amount either monthly, quarterly or annually by standing order payable to:

PCC All Saints Gosforth Sort Code: 20-59-61. Account Number: 00676314

Standing Orders can be set up or amended using online banking or if you would prefer by the completion of a Standing Order Mandate that you will find at the back of the church together with a Gift Aid Declaration form.

How Much Should I give?

The amount we choose to give is a personal decision and a matter between each of us and God. The absolute sum is less important than what that amount means to us. Our response should be given after prayer and reflection, being thoughtful, generous and realistic.

The amount we give may also depend on how determined we are to put All Saints at the heart of our wider community, ensuring a legacy for all who follow us.

The bible also gives us some guideline on how much we should give. The people of Israel were required to give a tenth of their income. Whilst some Christians still do this, the Church of England suggests a figure of 5% of net income on the basis that we are giving to other charitable causes too.

Whatever you decide to give, we are truly grateful and we thank you for sharing in this vision, life and stewardship of this parish.