



St. Mary's Church
C h i d d i n g f o l d

2024 Appeal



**Making an impact
through generous giving!**

St. Mary's makes a significant contribution to life in Chiddingfold

St. Mary's is an integral part of Chiddingfold's heritage and today is a vibrant and inclusive church with very strong community links. We have been serving people of every age right across the community in multiple ways for over 800 years.

St. Mary's was founded to ensure that all the people of Chiddingfold parish would have a place to come and draw close to God, a place to experience peace and prayer, and a place to mark the most important moments in their lives and all its seasons. We provide the following:

All Ages

All Stars children's church and the Good News Gang youth group meet on Sundays. We lead assemblies at St. Mary's Primary School on Tuesdays and host Church Mice babies and toddler groups on Thursdays, together with mid-week morning and evening discussion and prayer groups that cater to all interests.

All Stages

St. Mary's serves people at every stage of their life, offering baptism, confirmation, preparation to receive holy communion, marriage, funeral and burial, in addition to all the normal Sunday and mid-week services.

The Community

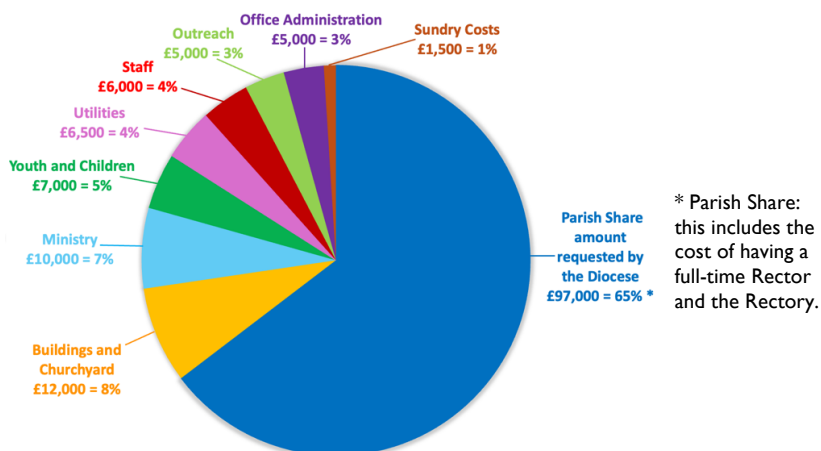
A wide range of community groups is based in St. Mary's stunning Grade I listed building or in our award-winning Church Room. Alongside our own activities we often host Parish Council meetings, art groups, garden clubs, yoga and Pilates classes, hearing aid clinics, choir rehearsals, as well as various educational, information and discussion meetings.

How we resource our impact

As with everything in life, this wide range of activities has a financial cost but it's important to note that, along with all other Anglican churches, St. Mary's generates all its own funds. Ideally, we need about £150,000 per annum – over £3,000 per week – to meet the costs associated with running the church, including all the ministry, maintenance and administration. Wherever possible we use the buildings and assets to generate income, but the vast majority comes from the generosity of people right across the community and beyond.

In recent years our income has decreased for a number of reasons (e.g. the death or relocation of several generous donors and the pandemic, etc.) but, like everyone else's, the operating costs have continued to rise. Consequently, although we are immensely grateful to all those who continue to support us, we do need to ask for additional assistance. We recognise of course that everyone's giving must be proportionate to their means but even the smallest amounts will help.

We need to raise an additional £35,000 just to maintain the church and its ministry during 2024, i.e. £673 per week.



How you could help

We would be grateful for any support you can provide. We would prefer that you make a regular monthly donation (of any size) as this helps us to plan ahead and budget our annual expenditure. However, if you would prefer to make a one-off donation, large or small, it will be gratefully received.

If you are a UK taxpayer and would be willing to complete a Gift Aid form, we would be able to claim an additional 25% of the amount donated from the Government – at nil cost to you!

If you are a new donor please bring your completed donation form to the church on Saturday 27th April 2024 to give to the Rector or one of the Churchwardens, or post it to the Rectory, and set up a standing order with your bank.

If you are an existing donor, we ask you to consider increasing the amount you give, even if only by a small amount, as every penny assists us to make a positive impact across the community.

All donations are strictly confidential.

Thank You!

‘We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.’

Winston Churchill

