



St Bart's
OTFORD



Together we seek to worship God, deepen our faith in him, support one another and show God's love in the community.

Our variety of services, from quiet and traditional to lively and informal provide something for everyone to appreciate. Our music is a particular strength of our church, and members of the choir and worship band love being part of the musical life of the church.

Our children and young people are a very important part of our church family and they enjoy a varied diet of age appropriate activities.

Our church building is special. It has stood in the centre of our village since the eleventh century, witnessing plagues and wars, comings and goings of princes, and celebrations of weddings, christenings and funerals. It remains at the heart of our village today.

Why should we give money to the Church?

When we give both money and time we support the mission of God in the world – both here in Otford and further afield. We give to the church because we see God’s generosity in the world around us, and we want to grow God’s Kingdom by increasing our giving.

Because of God’s generosity, we want to reach out in love to our community as Christ’s disciples. In our giving, God’s generous abundance flows through us to enable our church to flourish.

Our church finances

Every parish in the Church of England is responsible for their own funding. There is nothing from the government and nothing direct from the central Church of England. When we think about our giving to our church it’s helpful to know how much we have coming in, and what we spend it on each month. The table below shows typical monthly outgoings and income.

Monthly Expenses	
Admin & ministry expenses	£2,004
Church & Services	£1,573
Fabric repairs	£907
Common Fund	£5,053
Charity/mission giving	£733
Sundries	£255
Total	£10,525

Monthly Income	
Planned Giving (standing orders/ envelopes)	£6,088
Fundraising	£1,563
Gift Aid	£1,614
Cash collections	£445
Weddings/funerals	£200
Other	£625
Total	£10,353

Common Fund

The Common Fund is a pot of money into which every parish pays. It is used to pay for and support our vicars, and to further the work of the Church in every parish across the Diocese of Rochester.

Common Fund pays for our clergy, their housing and ongoing training and development. It pays for the training for lay ministers, and also safeguarding, legal structures, communications and financial governance. Some of the money is used to support churches in deprived communities.

How much money should we give?

It's up to you! We all have different levels of income. Some of us are quite comfortable, but for others, the costs of living crisis of recent years has hit hard.

However much or little we have, the New Testament teaches us to be generous in giving to God, who has been generous to us. Please think and pray and decide what is right for you to give to our village church. There is

Think about planned giving

Most of our church family give a set amount to the church each month, usually by standing order.

If you don't already have a standing order, please think about giving this way. If you make a regular payment you will make a big difference to our finances. Your gift will benefit your church even when you are away. It will also help our Treasurer and the PCC, who will have a much better idea of how much money the church will have and how we can best use the funds we have. We can also, with your agreement, claim gift aid on your donations which add 25% to their value, at no extra cost to you.



The next step

Thank you for all you do for St Bart's. Using the form provided please think and pray about what you would like to give.

Can you

- Increase the percentage of your income which you give to God through his church?
- Start giving monthly by setting up a standing order?
- Alternatively, give a one-off donation (and Gift Aid it)?
- Leave a gift in your will to your church?



Please make your response using the form provided. You can return it by emailing it to stewardship@otford.net, putting it in the box at the back of church or handing in to the church office before the service on Sunday 17 November, when our gifts will be offered to God in gratitude and thanksgiving.

Thank you

Thank you for considering this information. Without your valuable contributions our church would not be here today for our church family and our wider community.