

St Mary's Church Anywhere



St Mary's, Anywhere is an inclusive church. We are accepting of everyone, whatever their background or wherever they come from. Ours is a church where it is easy to belong.

We cherish our traditions, our buildings, our heritage, music and worship. By building on these and providing a warm welcome we have seen our numbers grow.

We are committed to thinking and learning, meeting in groups for contemplation and Bible study, so we can better understand what our faith means.

We are also committed to the world and our community, reaching out through our work with the Foodbank and Street Pastors, and our partnership with a church in Tanzania.

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 Anywhere 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.

God is generous, and our church is thriving. we want to nurture what is good in our church, and 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 Church of England. When we think about our giving to St Mary’s it’s helpful to know how much we have, and what we spend it on each month. These figures show what is needed to support the church.

Monthly Expenses		Monthly Income	
Contribution to the Diocese	£	Planned Giving (standing orders/ envelopes)	£
Vicarage & other clergy costs	£	Gift Aid	£
Routine maintenance	£	Cash collections	£
Cost of Services, including music	£	Fundraising income	£
Church running costs, including insurance	£	Rental & trading income	£
Parish office and admin		Other	£
Major repairs	£	Total	£
Total	£		

How much money should we give?

It’s up to you! As the difficulties of the Covid pandemic ease a little, we have seen an energy crisis, high inflation and significantly higher interest rates. Some of us have been really struggling through this, though others will still be comfortable. 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.

The 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 of our future clergy, and also pays for safeguarding, legal structures, communications and financial governance.

The Diocese is a wonderfully diverse and vibrant community of faith, with each parish facing different challenges and needs. As a Diocese we want to meet these challenges as a family of faith, supporting one other as we seek to grow disciples, enrich communities, and resource our mission and ministry. The Common Fund helps us realise this ambition. It means your contribution really matters.

Think about planned giving

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

As a parish we have joined the Parish Giving Scheme, which enables us to give by Direct Debit. If you sign up to this you will make a big difference to St Mary's. Your gift will benefit your church even when you are away. It will also help our treasurer, who will have a little less admin and a much better idea of how much money the church will have and how we can support our vision and plans for the future.



The next step

Thank you for all you do for St Mary'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?
- Set up a Direct Debit by joining the Parish Giving Scheme?
- Alternatively, give a one off donation (and Gift Aid it)?
- If you are staying with your standing order or envelope, make sure you have a gift aid declaration?
- Leave a gift in your will to your church?



Please make your response using the form provided and hand into the office or put in the box at the back of church before **Sunday xxxxx**.

Thank you

We may have different amounts of money, different abilities and talents and different ways of giving. These talents and gifts, like our possessions and wealth, are generous gifts from a generous God, and we offer them back to God to use within St Mary's and our wider community.

Thank you. Without your valuable contributions our church would not be here today.