

We could reduce our projected deficit by 50% if either

- **eight** new donors each began giving £12pw + Gift Aid; or
- **five** new donors each began giving £12pw + Gift Aid, and **ten** existing supporters increased their weekly contribution by £4ea; or
- **all** existing supporters increased their weekly contribution by £3.25

We've already begun to invest in some really exciting aspects of mission and ministry, particularly to children, families and young people. For example, a number of our young people enjoyed a day out together in November; 54 Advent calendars were purchased for the children in St Bertha's Daycare, and distributed with an invitation to our Christmas services; 2,000 Christmas service invitation cards were delivered to homes in the parish, and our first Christingle service in many years took place on Christmas Eve, attracting new families.



We similarly have lots of ambitious hopes for the future - for which we need your help and support! Our website (our digital "shop window") is being rebuilt at a cost of £1,200; and the external signs and noticeboards around the church site are being repainted at a cost of £2,040 - once more to draw the eyes of passersby, and extend to them an invitation to join us!



***With Gratitude and Hope***

## **St Mary-the-Virgin, Kenton Stewardship Campaign 2023**

“If we owe a debt of obligation to God because of His gift-giving, then we pay it forward rather than paying it back, by giving to others without demanding anything in return”

### **2. Why We Need Your Help**

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin Kenton  
A Registered Charity, No. 1132234

## ***Mission and Ministry at St Mary's***

So much goes into sustaining mission and ministry here at St Mary's - and some of our financial obligations may surprise you. We receive no state support, or funding from the central Church of England: in fact, we contribute **£50,000 each year** to the Diocese of London. We have recently reduced this contribution from £60,000pa to attempt to stabilise our finances - but it still represents 43% of our expected expenditure for the year. This contribution pays for the parish clergy (including pensions, National Insurance and Council Tax), as well as - repairs to vicarages; the training of new priests and existing clergy; the development of lay ministry, and central support with, for example, safeguarding and legal matters. In the Diocese of London, the total cost per parish of this support is actually £87,775pa: thankfully, there are other parishes able to contribute more than this to make up the shortfall in contributions from parishes such as ours. However, our long-term viability is dependent on being able to make a realistic contribution to central costs - and so the reduction in our "Common Fund" payment ought hopefully to be a temporary one.

In addition to our Common Fund contribution, our budget for 2023 includes expenditure on:

- insurance for the church and Hall - £8,000
- the provision of broadband Internet in the church (to support our live-streaming) and Vicarage - £1,000
- the repayment of a diocesan loan to install two new boilers - £2,000
- the lease of the photocopier, and other stationery - £3,000
- the maintenance of the organ, and fees for our organist - £7,000
- the maintenance of 268A, Kenton Road - £3,500

as well as many other costs. We predict our total expenditure this year will be **£115,700** (including savings of around £10,000 on 2022); however, our income is only predicted to be around £103,000 - **meaning a shortfall of more than £12,000.**

Since September 2022, we've worked hard to identify various ways to generate additional income and to make savings; these include:

- negotiating a new photocopier contract to save around £1,300pa
- negotiating a new telephone and broadband contract to save around £500pa
- successful grant funding applications for £2,641 - with several more grant applications submitted
- securing new Hall hires worth more than £5,000 in 2023

As no doubt you are aware, we successfully reduced our gas and electricity consumption by 66% between October and December 2022: had we not done so, we faced a potential energy bill of £30,000 for the year. However, steep energy price rises meant that our bills increased by more than £1,000 in those three months, relative to 2021. Our 2023 budget includes up to £20,000 expenditure on utilities - a rise of £8,000 on the previous year. *Inflation of almost 10% means both an increase in all our costs, and a diminishment in the monetary value of our incoming resources.*

Most significantly, congregational giving has declined by more than **£14,000pa** since 2019. This seems to be due to various factors, including members of our parish family dying or moving away from the area, as well as changing patterns of attendance: where once someone may have attended Mass every Sunday, and contributed to the offertory collection weekly, now their attendance and contribution may only take place monthly, for example.

In 2021-22, **33** people gave regularly to St Mary's, either by Standing Order or by the freewill giving envelope scheme. Weekly gifts ranged from £5pp to £46.15pp, with an average gift of **£12 per person per week** (or £51 per person per calendar month). Such a typical gift is, coupled with the **Gift Aid** scheme, worth £765 per year.

