



St Mary's Vicarage,  
3, St Leonard's Avenue,  
Kenton,  
Harrow HA3 8EJ

Wednesday, 17 September

Dear friends,

### **Stewardship Campaign 2025**

*(Please, first, accept my apologies for any errors on your envelope: my administrative support is not always 100% accurate!)*

Earlier this year, I wrote to you to introduce **Pilgrims of Hope - St Mary, Kenton Stewardship Campaign 2025** - an invitation to all members of our parish family prayerfully and carefully to consider our financial contributions offered in support of the life of our church. Thank you so much for all that you already do and give to resource our ministry and mission.

More recently, I also outlined in a homily how the sad loss of some very generous members of our congregation has left us facing a decline in regular giving of around £5,000 this year. As I similarly shared with you, your church Council has been working very hard to secure and stabilise income from other sources: just in recent weeks, we have confirmed *more* than £5,000 additional rental income through the hire of the church and the Hall to new ecumenical partners. However, this does not remove the aforementioned challenge completely: St Mary's has ambitious plans, under God, for the future - and is also committed to paying our way with regard to the wider Church, from whom - at present - we receive significant financial subsidies.

At our recent "parish conversation" over lunch on Holy Cross Day, Sunday 14 September, some three dozen of our number met together to attempt to discern God's will for St Mary's. You expressed the desire to deepen our ministry to children, families and young people, and to reach out into our community, especially to the most vulnerable. Over the coming weeks, the church Council will be taking this discernment exercise further, to attempt to propose some concrete ways in which we might respond to God's call to mission in these areas.

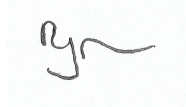
But only with *your* help can we build this little corner of God's Kingdom: please therefore, if you have not already done so, take a moment in quiet communion with the Lord, to review first and reconsider your *financial* support for St Mary's. Could you contemplate raising your regular gift by 5%, or by £2/week - whichever figure is greater?

As previously explained, the most efficient means to give to St Mary's is by Standing Order (in favour of account name: *ST MARY THE VIRGIN PCC KENTON*; account no: 30334960; sort code 20-37-16); another way is via the Parish Giving Scheme: simply visit [parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/kenton-st-mary-the-virgin-harrow/](http://parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/kenton-st-mary-the-virgin-harrow/) or telephone 0333 002 1271, and quote PGS parish code 230623484.

And remember that if you are a UK taxpayer (paying income tax on a salary or pension, or capital gains tax), the value of your freewill offering to the Church can be increased by 25% - at no extra cost to you - simply by completing and returning a Gift Aid form (*available in church, or from one of the clergy or church officers*). HMRC will refund to the parish the tax you have *already* paid on your donation; however, no information is shared with HMRC - or with any other government agency - beyond confirming your taxpayer status.

*A giving parish is a living parish:* thank you once again for your commitment and support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rn', enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Fr Richard Norman