



## **St Mark's, Gillingham**



### **Living for Jesus, Loving Gillingham, Learning Together**

We are a community of Christians who seek to love God, look outwards and share the Good News of Jesus Christ both here and abroad.

We are welcoming, warm, safe and relaxed, and are a community with a lot going on - from Sunday worship to home groups, Gospel worship nights, Peace and Hope, Dementia Cafe, community groups and Messy Church and other activities for our children and young people.

We believe we should share that good news of Jesus, equip people in their faith journey and see them live their faith out, in the world.

## Why should we give money to the Church?

Our giving of both money and time supports the mission of God in the world – both here in Gillingham and further afield.

We give to the church because we see God's abundant generosity in the world around us.

As disciples of Christ we want to put God first in our lives. In our giving that generous abundance from God flows through us to enable that church to flourish.

## This year's General Fund budget

When we think about our giving to God through his church it is helpful to understand that every church has to fund itself, and to know how much we have, and what we spend it on.

Expenses	
Diocese offer	£60,334
Buildings	£41,500
Staff	£28,900
Operations	£15,725
Away giving	£12,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>£158,659</b>

Income	
Planned giving	£88,000
Online & card giving	£10,000
Cash collections	£2,000
Gift Aid	£22,000
Rent & fees	£13,500
Other	£15,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>£150,800</b>

## What about the money we pay to the Diocese?

The Common Fund is a pot of money paid into by congregations across the Diocese (Diocese Offer). It is used to provide and support ministers, and to further the work of the Church in every parish across the Diocese of Rochester.

The Diocese is a wonderfully diverse and vibrant community of faith, with each parish facing different challenges and needs. Our Diocesan vision expresses our ambition to meet these challenges as a family of faith, supporting each 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 every contribution matters.

## How much money should we give?

The New Testament teaches us to be generous in giving to God. Many Christians follow the Old Testament norm of 10% when considering their giving across the spectrum of their local church and other Christian causes. Not everyone, of course, can manage that amount. So we simply ask you please to consider prayerfully how much you are able to give to St Mark's.

## Thank you

We may have different amounts of money and have different abilities and talents. 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 Mark's and our wider community.

## Think about planned giving

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

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 Mark's finances. 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 the church will have and how we can support our vision and plans for the future.



## What we give

Our gift to God is something between ourselves and God. We are not here to tell anyone what they should be giving.

What we ask you to do is pray, think, and decide what is the right level for you.

## The next step

Thank you for all you do for St Mark's. Using the form provided please think and pray about what you give now.

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 lump sum (and Gift Aid it)?
- Could you leave a gift in your will to your church?

Regular giving by direct debit is the best way to give, but you can also give online, by contactless card donation or cash.



Please make your response using the form provided and put in the box at the back of church or scan and email to the treasurer - [glynallen@stmarksgillingham.org](mailto:glynallen@stmarksgillingham.org), before 10 July 2022.

**THANK YOU!**