



# Giving money to support the mission and ministry of St Nicolas Newbury



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Every year at St Nic's we ask members of our church family to think again about what they are giving financially towards the mission and ministry of the church. Maybe you've joined us recently and haven't got around yet to thinking about this aspect of belonging to a church. Maybe you've been giving to St Nic's for many years (in which case, thank you for your generosity!). In either case, we hope this booklet is helpful for you as you think about your giving for the year ahead.

## **THE PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN GIVING**

In the Apostle Paul's letters to the Corinthian church he addresses the topic of giving several times as he urges the church to give generously. Here are five pieces of helpful advice that we find from Paul. Christian giving should be:

- **Universal**

*'Each one of you should set aside a sum of money'* (1 Cor 16:2). Giving is not something reserved for just a few. It is for all God's people.

- **Regular**

*'On the first day of every week...'* (1 Cor 16:2). The Corinthians were instructed to set aside money on a regular basis. We should be thoughtful and committed in our giving not random and sporadic.

- **Proportional**

Paul told the Corinthians that each person should give *'according to your means'* (2 Cor 8:11) and *'in keeping with your income'* (1 Cor 16:2). We will not all be able to give equal amounts. What counts is not the size of the gift but the willingness with which it is given (2 Cor 8:12).

- **Sacrificial**

Giving is motivated by the grace and the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ – *'though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor'* (2 Cor 8:9). When we give sacrificially there will be things we will need to go without because of our giving.

- **Joyful**

*'God loves a cheerful giver'* (2 Cor 9:7). Giving shouldn't be guilt-ridden but rather a joyful response to God's loving generosity. It should spring from joy and lead to joy.

## **THE COSTS OF ST NIC'S CHURCH**

Per the categories below, our total budgeted routine expenditure for 2025 is £501,000.

- **Parish Share - £174,000**

This is the amount that we contribute towards the Oxford Diocese. Most of this covers the pay, housing, pension and associated costs of the three full-time paid clergy that we have at St Nic's. Our Parish Share also goes towards important central costs such as Safeguarding, as well as the wider ministry of the diocese. In the light of recent changes to teaching on sexuality and marriage in the Church of England, St Nic's has changed the way we pay our Parish Share: see [st-nics.org/ParishShare](https://st-nics.org/ParishShare)

- **Staff Costs - £127,000**

This covers the salaries of our Youth and Children's Ministry staff, and our administrative staff. (It does not include the clergy – see 'Parish Share' above.) It also includes training costs and other expenses for the whole staff team.

- **Church Buildings - £121,000**

Our church buildings are a wonderful resource for us. They cost a significant amount to run and maintain. In addition, we are always seeking to improve our buildings and facilities so that they are suitable for the expanding ministry of the church.

- **Ministry - £17,000**

This includes the running costs (materials, resources etc.) of the ministry areas within the church such as youth and children's ministry, evangelism and Sunday services.

- **Administration - £26,000**

This covers all office supplies, publicity, IT, phones, copying etc. It also includes fees for professional services such as our accountants.

- **Outreach giving - £36,000**

Each year we give 10% of our unrestricted income to mission and ministry outside our parish, both overseas and in the UK. This includes giving to our link missionaries from St Nic's. We believe that just as God has been generous to us through the giving of many people so we should be generous to others outside St Nic's.

In addition to the above, we continue to work on a number of projects related to our Vision including the development of our Church Building. We also continue to invest in three recent outreach projects: Hidden Treasures, Meet Monday and the CAP Debt Centre. Some of these projects will be funded either from legacy reserves or existing funds held specifically for these activities.

## **Thank you to our givers!**

Over 80% of the income of St Nic's comes from the generous giving (including Gift Aid) of the congregation. We are totally reliant on each other's financial stewardship for the ongoing mission and ministry of our church.

Over 230 adults give regularly towards the ministry of St Nic's (this includes couples who give jointly through one regular payment). If you are one of these regular givers then thank you! You enable us to plan and to invest in ministry with confidence. Thank you also to all those who have given in other ways, such as through one-off gifts.

## **THE CHALLENGE WE FACE FOR 2025**

**In 2025, we need to raise our congregational giving by £16,000.**

Last year, 2024 saw us report an overall deficit of £15,000, most of which was funded by brought-forward restricted funds from 2023, so overall we achieved a break-even position thanks to the generous giving of the congregation. Once again, thank you!

In order to target a break-even position in 2025, our budget includes a congregational giving appeal to raise an additional £16,000. Alongside this, we have deferred £23,000 of repair & maintenance works until future years or budget permitting.

We very much appreciate the ongoing impact of cost of living challenges; however we are appealing to the church family to increase giving by £16,000. Adding the associated Gift Aid of around £4,000, the £20,000 would contribute significantly to meeting our budget break-even target for 2025.

## **Your response**

Reviewing our giving on a regular basis is a healthy habit to get into: **If you don't currently give regularly, will you consider starting to give? If you do currently give, can you increase your giving? Could you consider making a one-off gift?**

We are well aware that not everyone can increase their giving. Some people may need to decrease the amount that they give due to changing circumstances. We are extremely grateful for all gifts, whatever the size and whatever you give. Please remember to give tax-efficiently wherever possible, through Gift Aid or payroll giving.

We believe that God has exciting plans for St Nic's church – he calls us to *be good news* and to *bring good news* in Newbury. As we seek to live out this calling and deliver our vision, we believe it is something worth supporting with our money.

If you have any questions about the church's finances, contact our Treasurer, Ian Gore (treasurer@st-nics.org), or our Stewardship Secretary, Shalini Philip (stewardship@st-nics.org).