

our vision

Dear Friends,

I am asking you to join me in reviewing your regular giving so that we have the financial means to fund God's mission through St Mary's Church.

As a church we have adopted the Diocese's vision of 'Creating connections with God, with each other and with the community.' The 'Our Church' page explains some of the ways we are implementing this vision.

Although giving money is an integral part of our discipleship we can find talking about this difficult. So to assist our thinking in this area we will be following a sermon series 'Giving in Grace' on four Sundays:

19th January: The Rich Ruler (Luke 18:18-30)

26th January: The Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21)

2nd February: Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

9th February: The Widow's Mite (Luke 21:1-4)

A response form is available in Church or from the Church Office or the Vicarage.

Thank you for your fellowship and work.

Philip

This ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but overflows with many thanksgivings to God. 2 Cor 9:12

how much?

How do we decide how much to give?

There is no one, easy answer for everyone. We are called to love God and our neighbour and our giving is an expression of that love.

There are some practical things we can consider:

- ✿ **increase** our giving to meet the needs
- ✿ **join** the planned giving scheme with weekly envelopes or a standing order
- ✿ **optimise** our giving using Gift Aid if we pay tax
- ✿ **make a legacy gift** when we plan for the future of those we love and care for
- ✿ **give proportionately** - a percentage of our income given to fund ministry

Our projected deficit in 2020 is £13,000 so if 100 people increased their giving by £2.50 a week this would be covered. I realise that this is an average, some will give less and some will give more according to their circumstances.

At the end of the day how much you should give is a thoughtful, prayerful decision only you can make.

*Please think and pray
about your response*

St Mary's Almondsbury



MY CHURCH
MY CHALLENGE
MY CHOICE

**Giving
in Grace**

our church

Our giving sustains our church **building**, a special place of worship, prayer and witness.

Our giving sustains our **clergy**, here and across our diocese and helps train new clergy.

Our giving sustains our **ministry**, including:

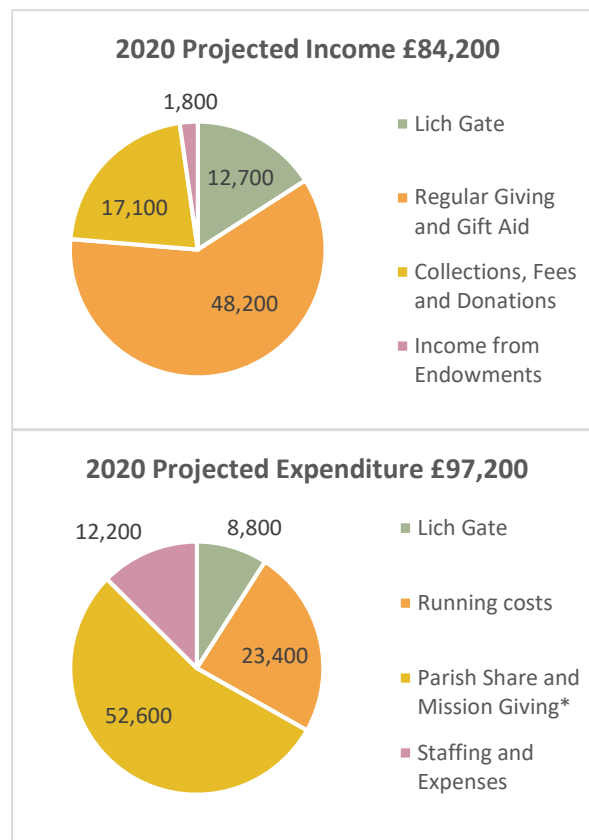
- ✚ Provide a variety of services which both sustain and encourage us to grow as Christians
- ✚ Using the reordered building to grow relationships with God and others
- ✚ Offer nurture courses to enable people to learn about being a Christian
- ✚ Develop our work with families including links with local schools
- ✚ Toddlers, Oasis and Messy Church
- ✚ Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals
- ✚ Marriage Preparation and Parenting Courses
- ✚ Show the love of Christ through our care, comfort and compassion

Our giving sustains **mission** both here in the UK and overseas for people we may never meet but to whom we can give practical support.

Thank you for helping to make this happen

our challenge

Our challenge is to increase the 2020 income and be able to fund all the day to day running costs of the Church. Without a 20% increase in Giving we would have to dip into our uncommitted reserves – which are only expected to last another 2 years.



*Parish share includes clergy stipend, pension, NI and housing costs plus our share of diocesan costs

But just as you excel in everything...see that you also excel in this grace of giving 2 Cor 8:7

our choices

Our church has two planned giving schemes available. One is to give by standing order direct to the church's bank account. The other is the envelope scheme which gives you 52 envelopes per year which you can use to make a weekly donation via the offering plate.

Is now the time to move to giving by standing order or to join the envelope scheme?

If you pay tax, then giving using these schemes can be 'gift aided' which means that for each £10 you give, the taxman adds £2.50.

If you pay tax and have not signed a gift aid form please complete one.

Finally, is now the time to decide to give a percentage of what we each receive? The following table gives examples

Percentage giving table				
Weekly income	Weekly Giving (£)			
	1%	2%	5%	10%
£100	£1	£2	£5	£
£200	£2	£4	£10	20
£400	£4	£8	£20	£40
£800	£8	£16	£40	£80

This is a ministry for everyone – 'each according to your means' 2 Cor 8:11