

Giving is our response to God's generosity

As individuals and as a church...

We give our **selves** to God - in relationship with him through worship, reading the bible and prayer

We give our **time** and **talents** to God - to further his kingdom on earth through serving his church and all people

We give our **resources** to God - acknowledging that all we have is from him and is to be shared with others

Thank you for reading this. May God bless you as you consider your response to his generosity towards us.

With our love in Jesus,

Mike & Nicky-Sue



The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof!
Psalm 24:1 KJV

Giving at St. Mary's

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action

Thank you

for your ongoing giving
and generosity towards
God's work at St. Mary's

Ministry and Outreach at St. Mary's

Our giving sustains our church **building**, church hall and churchyard – community spaces for worship, fellowship, hospitality and prayerful reflection.

Our giving provides for our **clergy**, here and in other parishes, and the expertise parishes can access through the diocese.

Our giving supports our **ministry** through

- church services
- children and family work
- baptisms, weddings and funerals
- pastoral care
- fellowship groups
- the church office
- links with our local primary Academy
- communications and publicity
- teaching and courses about the Christian life

Our giving enables **mission** to our parish and to others around the UK and overseas whose work we give to.

Thank you for your part in our mission and ministry at St. Mary's.

Our Vision

is to grow in faith through worship, prayer and learning together: sharing our faith and God's love through service and mission.

During 2015-2016 we will be exploring, practically and biblically, how God wants us to grow as a church. This is very exciting and, to help us turn our vision into reality, we have three particular agreed mission areas to work on which are reviewed regularly by our church leadership:

- Children and Families work;
- Pastoral Care;
- Communications.

We can do one or more things as we review our giving:

- use a **planned giving** scheme: the Parish Giving Scheme (more on that below), a standing order, or weekly envelopes. This will allow the PCC to plan more confidently for the future,
- **review the amount** given per week or month after prayerful consideration. You may decide to increase your giving in response to our wonderful mission and ministry opportunities or you may decide you have to decrease your giving because of changed circumstances,
- commit to God to **give a percentage** of our income to fund ministry,
- optimise our giving if we are a tax payer by using the **Gift Aid** scheme,
- make a **bequest or legacy gift** to the church when planning for the future of those we love and care for

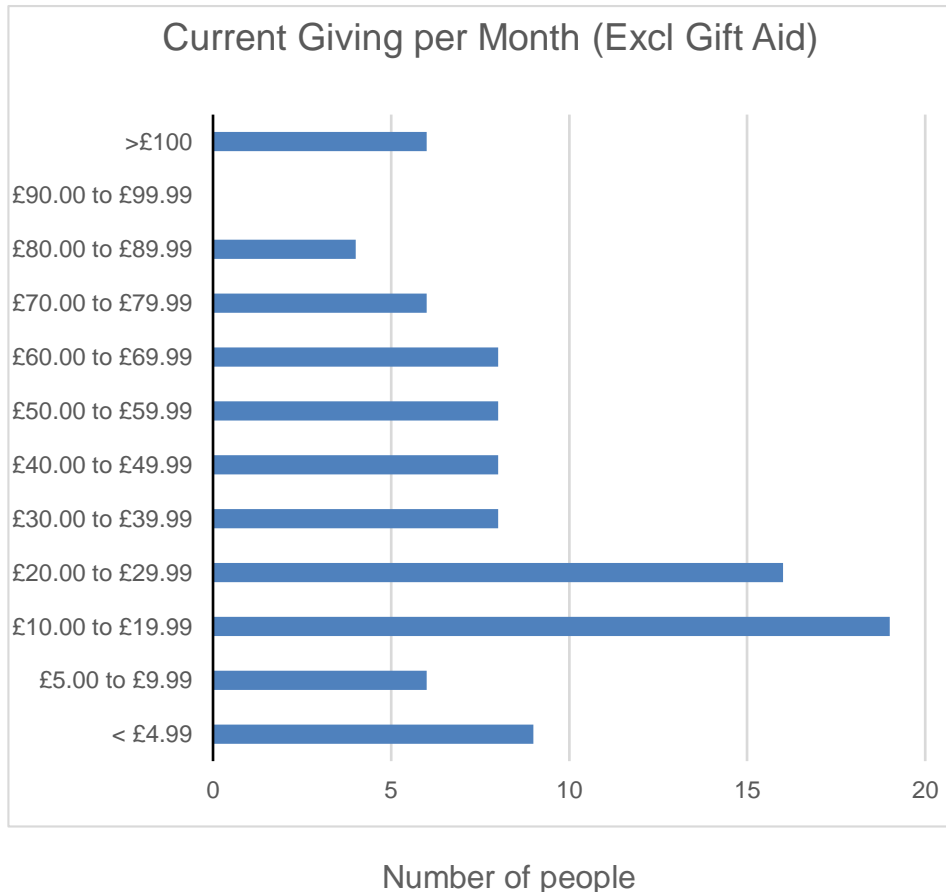
Parish Giving Scheme. We have recently launched a simple, new way of giving designed and run by the Church of England, which our diocese is commending to churches. Your vicars and most of the PCC have already signed up to this. The strength of the PGS is that both you and the treasurer know how much will be given each month and any gift aid is returned to the church monthly instead of annually. This means less work for the treasurer and finance volunteers, and it aids budgeting for the individual and the PCC. There is also an option to allow your gift to increase each year with inflation. If you have not already received a PGS pack there are some at the back of the church, in the office or ask Iain Wilkie for one.



Our Response

The first step is to clarify our **understanding** of our church's needs. Please look at the charts of income and expenditure and ask questions of the Finance Committee, which includes the vicars and treasurer.

We are called to love God and our neighbour, and our giving is one expression of that love. As a second step, we can prayerfully **review** our giving, asking God to guide us in responding to his generosity to us. Where are you on this chart?



Our Goals for 2015-2016

are to reach out further in these three mission priorities from a stable financial basis. Some opportunities are highlighted below.

This year we increased the hours of Alex, our **Children & Families Worker**, from 4 to 16 per week (the pie charts only show her salary last year). She has some great ideas about how to expand her work in reaching out to families through our popular parent and toddler group, Stay & Play, and Messy Church. Our vision is to offer pastoral care to families, including parenting courses, and have closer involvement with our local Church of England Academy, through leading collective worship and contributing to Christian teaching. We had initial grant funding to expand her role, but must now shoulder the on-going responsibility to fund Alex's families work.



Part of our **pastoral care to our parish** is using our churchyard for burials and interment of ashes. It is almost full so we have a plan to create a new garden of remembrance for the burial of ashes and we now need this space. Our vision is to keep the churchyard 'open' for

parishioners to be buried and interred for as many years as we can. We also plan to train our pastoral care team in bereavement care so that we can improve our follow-up with families after the funerals that we conduct.

Publicising our ministry to our parish gives people the opportunity to participate in the work of God in Hook with Warsash, whether in receiving or contributing. Our vision is that our **Communications** team can improve and expand our effectiveness in informing our community, through various media: from the Warsash Parish News under our new editor, to keeping our website and Facebook pages up to date. And we plan, in due course, to revive the project to improve audiovisual facilities within the church building, to facilitate participation in worship.



The Cost

The annual cost of our ministry and outreach for 2016 is £120,000. That is £10,000 per month and £2,500 per week, or just under £60 per month for each member of our Electoral Roll, to sustain our **building** and **clergy**, our **ministry** and **outreach**. The pie charts show where our money came from and went to last year.

Our current budget includes estimates for everyday running costs and for our plans described above. It also balances our books with regard to a deficit that we have experienced for several years which has only been covered by significant anonymous gifts; last year we received two generous donations totalling £10,000 and without which our church would have been in serious financial difficulty.

We are one of the wealthiest parishes in our diocese from a socio-economic standpoint, and our church's budget is relatively modest. With prayerful and committed giving, we should be able to balance our expenditure and, in time, increase our budget to accomplish all God may ask of us as we engage with his kingdom work here.

