Can you help please?

We need a regular income to:

- pay and house our clergy;
- maintain our church building as a welcoming place and open every day;
- provide regular services of worship and teaching;
- fund our music, an important part of our worship;
- run youth and children's groups and take school assemblies;
- conduct weddings, baptisms and funerals, including preparation;
- visit the sick and housebound and comfort the bereaved;
- contribute to the cost of ministry across the Diocese; and
- support missionary and outreach work, both locally and further afield.

This costs about £650 a day!

Most of our money comes through regular Planned Giving from our church members by standing orders. If we do not meet our running costs, we risk eating into reserves which could soon run out.

This year it looks like our budgeted deficit is likely rise to as much as £24,000 which means further depletion of our reserves, and this cannot be maintained without making drastic cuts.

Apart from Gift Aid we receive no subsidy from the State. We have to raise all the funds we need ourselves.

Unfortunately, the number of church goers is decreasing, and our financial situation can only be rectified if more people are able to contribute on a regular basis, or if those that already do so are able to increase their contributions.

Please help us maintain what we can offer in our beautiful and historic church.

Please respond to our Stewardship Letters or pick up a Planned Giving leaflet at the back of the church or contact our Treasurer David Birchall at treasurer@stmaryssaffronwalden.org.

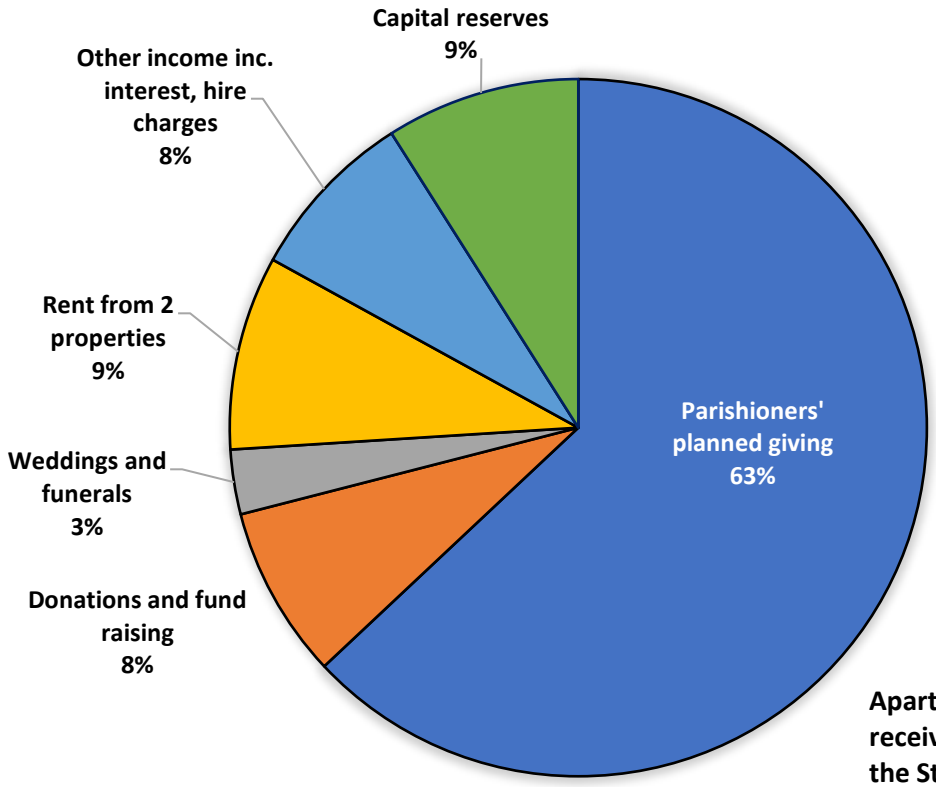
Below is a summary of our income and expenditure budgeted for this year, and the pie charts also show the relative proportions in a more visual way.

Thank you

What St Mary's spends its money on and where it comes from.

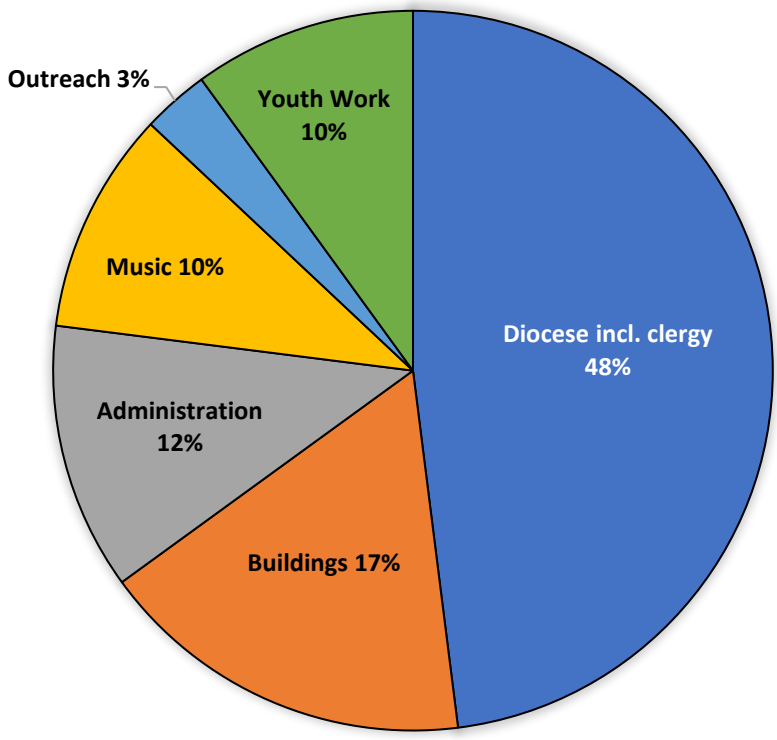
It costs about £650 a day to run this church

Where the money will come from:



Apart from Gift Aid we receive no money from the State.

Where the money goes:



St Mary's Church Accounts based on the Budget for 2026

INCOME

We receive no subsidy from the State apart from Gift Aid.

Stewardship / Planned Giving	Parishioners giving via Standing orders, numbered envelopes, yellow envelopes, including Gift Aid	£169,000
General donations	From card machines and Blue safe	£15,000
Rent received	Rent from Curate's House	£14,600
Dividends and interest	Dividends and interest received on savings	£10,680
Rent received	Rent from Vergers Cottage	£10,080
Fees for weddings and funerals	Fees received for weddings and funerals	£8,000
Lettings (parish rooms)	Fees for hiring out the parish rooms	£5,400
Fundraising	Christmas Fair, marmalade sales etc	£5,200
General collections	Collections at services	£4,000
Special collections	eg: collections at Wednesday morning services for Foodbank / Tinies donations for E.A.C.H which we pass on.	£4,000
For the Diocese	From St James, Sewards End	£4,105
For the Diocese	From St John, Little Walden	£3,289
Lettings (church)	Fees for hiring out the church	£2,500
Other income	Miscellaneous income	£1,850
	Total Income	**£257,704**

EXPENSES

For the Diocese	Paid to Chemsford Diocese for Clergy (salary, pension, housing etc) and mission (to help poor parishes)	£131,698
Payroll costs (salaries and pension contributions)	Director of Music, Youth workers, Parish Office staff, Weddings Co-ordinator, Church Cleaner	£73,220
Church running expenses **	Gas, electricity, Water, Insurance premiums, maintenance etc	£31,585
Parish Rooms expenses	Gas, electricity, water, insurance, cleaning etc	£8,530
Miscellaneous expenses	General expenses eg: audit fees, bank charges, website, various subs etc	£8,492
Choir & Music expenses	Assistant Organists fees, organ tuning, choir expenses etc	£7,895
Parish Office expenses	Telephone, photocopier, printing, stationery, postage	£4,730
Outward Giving	Bible Translators (£2400), St Mary's School (£1500) and Friends of Essex Churches Trust (£250)	£4,150
Donations from special collections	For Foodbank, EACH etc	£4,000
Curate's House expenses	Maintenance costs	£3,670
Clergy & Youth worker expenses	Traveling costs, telephone, materials etc	£3,299
Services costs	Wine, wafers, candles, Zoom subs	£1,000
	Total Expenses	**£282,269**
Surplus / Deficit	**Deficit, taken out of Capital Reserves**	**-£24,565**

** The church maintenance only includes known / regular annual servicing costs. It does not include repairs and maintenance required from time to time (eg: lightning conductor repair, £6,500, clearing gutters etc, etc)

If you have any questions please contact David Birchall our treasurer at treasurer@stmaryssaffronwalden.org