

Frequently Asked Questions

What is included in the budget?

For a full budget breakdown and more detailed explanation of income and expenditure, including the Quinquennial Report visit smch.org.uk/generousgiving.

What is the Quinquennial Report?

We are required to inspect the building every five years to ensure it is kept safe and in good repair. This Quinquennial Report determined that £33,500 of our 2026 budget (part of £90,000 over three years) is allocated to essential maintenance work.

What about the money from restricted funds?

In 2025 St Mark's sold a property on Halstead Road which was purchased with a financial gift in 2014 to house a curate and his family. Later it was rented out for income. The funds received from the sale are ring fenced and cannot be used for day-to-day running costs. They are currently earning interest whilst the PCC (our trustees) decide how best to use them to support church growth.

What is Parish Share?

Parish Share is our contribution to the wider mission and ministry of the Diocese. It helps fund clergy stipends (salaries), pensions, housing and shared ministry costs across the Diocese. St Mark's benefits directly from this through the provision of our Vicar, Curate, and Associate Minister.

Another benefit of shared resources and unlike in some other denominations, we don't have to rent or pay a mortgage on our beautiful building.

In the 2025, we were not able to meet our planned expenditure and therefore significantly underpaid our parish share. As one of the largest and most blessed churches in the Diocese, our shortfall has a negative impact on the direct support that the Diocese is able to provide in supporting the spreading of God's word in our neighbouring communities - our leadership team consider it a priority to be fully engaged in this critical mission.

What is the direct impact on St Mark's?

If we are unable to close our £148,811 funding gap we may have to make difficult decisions about which ministries must close or reduce.

You can find more questions and answers at smch.org.uk/generousgiving.

Giving for Growth

Covering the £148,811 budget deficit to meet our **running costs** is the immediate priority. Accommodating **growth** however, requires investment in longer-term projects. Recent examples include the kitchen and community room refurbishments.

Leaving St Mark's a legacy gift in your will is one way to make a larger one-off gift. Giving from an inheritance or other windfall might be another.

If you would like to talk in confidence about leaving a legacy gift to St Mark's Church, please pick up a leaflet, visit smch.org.uk/generousgiving, contact the church office or speak directly to a member of the clergy or a church warden.

St Mark's Church, Harrogate, Leeds Road, HG2 8AY
Call: 01423 544528 Email: office@smch.org.uk

Generous Giving



Donating to
St Mark's



GIVING
SUNDAY
22 MAR

Thank you for being part of this church and for all the ways you support our ministry and mission. God is doing wonderful things among us, and through our thriving, diverse community you are part of that story!

We are blessed to have a large, beautiful building, and each week over 500 people of all ages and at every stage of their faith journey join us. St Mark's is a place of welcome, faith, growth, and care and that doesn't happen by accident.

Like any community, St Mark's needs resources to flourish. Over 250 people generously volunteer their time but as a charity, we are dependent on donations (we call this giving) to keep the doors open.

A Critical Moment for our Finances

We have now reached a critical time financially.

St Mark's offers a warm environment, vibrant children's work, a dedicated youth ministry, engaging worship, pastoral care, clean and well-maintained facilities, and the simple but important things like lighting, heating, coffee and biscuits. All of this costs money.

In recent years our costs have increased significantly due to inflation. While our expenses continue to grow, our income has not kept pace. As a result, we are no longer able to fully meet the needs of the church or do all that we believe God is calling us to do.

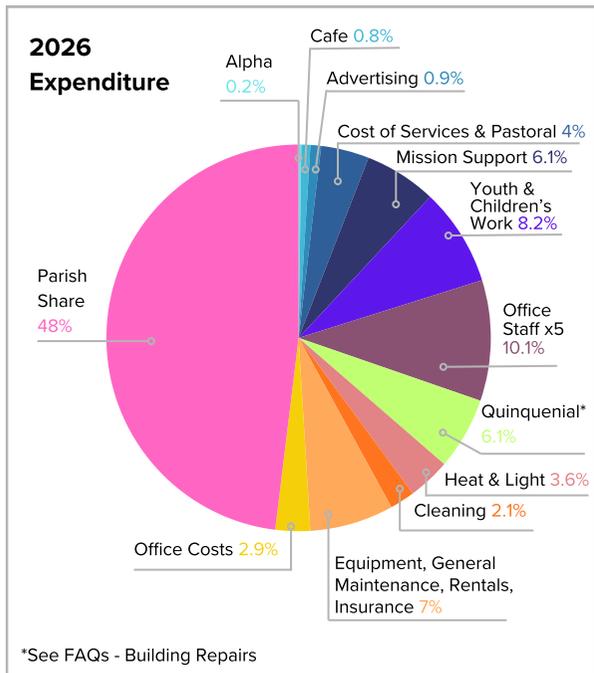
The Financial Picture 2026

Our estimated **expenditure** is £553,109 that's approximately £1,500 per day to run St Mark's.

Our estimated **income** is £404,298

- £336,523 comes from planned giving (including Gift Aid)
- £67,775 comes from other income sources e.g. room hire, occasional services, cafe, solar panels and grants.

This leaves a funding gap of £148,811



Our Vision

Our desire is for St Mark's to thrive; to follow Jesus, make disciples and build God's kingdom - connecting deeply with God and reaching out into our community. To do this well we need to cover our running costs this year and every year.

We believe that with God's help, a funding gap of £148,811 can be closed - and more than that, completely smashed. Today, we're asking for your prayerful support.

Please take time to consider:

- If St Mark's is your church, how committed are you (within your financial constraints) to help fund its ministry and mission?
- How are you supporting your St Mark's community that serves you and so many others?

Can you Help?

We invite you to review your giving.

You might consider:

- Starting to give for the first time
- Increasing your ad-hoc giving
- Becoming a regular giver (for example, by monthly standing order)
- Making a one-off gift, in addition to your regular giving
- Reviewing your regular giving

Every gift matters. No gift is too big or too small.

How Much Should I Give?

Giving is personal and prayerful, shaped by individual circumstances. The Bible calls us to be generous, while also being wise stewards of what we have.

Some ideas to reflect on:

- Could you "sponsor" one day in the life of St Mark's by giving £1500 either as a one-off or spread over the year?
- Do you increase your giving annually in-line with inflation?
- Could you explore biblical tithing, working towards giving 10% of your gross income?

Our Call to Action

Throughout March, we invite you to join us in praying for the finances of St Mark's. On our annual giving day, **Sunday 22nd March**, there will be an opportunity to respond and pledge your support, using the enclosed form.

But you don't need to wait until then! You can start or change your giving at any time by scanning the QR code or visiting smch.org.uk/generousgiving.

During the year, we'll keep you updated on our financial position.



SCAN TO GIVE

