

ST MARY'S
LOUGHTON
NOTHING
IS
IMPOSSIBLE
WITH
GOD



'STREAMS OF HOPE' - GIFT DAYS **26 MARCH & 2 APRIL 2023**

'St Mary's has been put on a hill spiritually. Rain falling and spreading out into streams in different directions. Do we have the resources? Ezekiel 47 – little streams growing as they flow out in different directions.'

(Prophetic word for St Mary's from 2018)

In January this year, at our vision evening, 'Streams of Hope', I shared the above prophetic word for us as a church. If you missed the session, please do look it up on our YouTube channel. It really is worth watching. We shared about the many streams of hope flowing out of St Mary's, such as Cafe Hope, Living Hope, ignite, Hope Central, pastoral ministry, outreach and more. God is at work among us in so many ways as we share the gospel of Jesus.

As a church family, not long ago we raised over £1.2m for the Hope Centre, because we could see a vision of what God wanted to do among us. This is now happening! Peoples lives are being touched on a daily basis. So much mission is happening. Now is the time to give again, to keep mission flowing out. It costs over £1,000 a day to keep St Mary's fully open and active.

These past few years have been challenging for our church finances. That is why we are asking for you to respond generously, as you have done before. Please give as you are able to keep our vital gospel work going forwards.

With much love and gratitude,

Malcolm

WHAT WILL MY GIVING DO?

This is what we want to ask you to help us to do:

Build on the vision for the Hope Centre

St Mary's mission and ministry flowing as 'streams of hope' builds on the vision of building the Hope Centre, where we raised £1.2m from 2012-2017. Now in 2023, it is about living out that vision to deliver life-changing ministry and building hope in people's lives. This is happening right now and needs generous financial support. We built a building then; now we are bringing the hope of Jesus to our community. This is what we are asking for your financial support for. God is our Provider! He has always been faithful!

Keep St Mary's open and active in mission & ministry

ignite



Over 4,000 people come through St Mary's every month! Our doors are open to everyone! We distribute food, offer community, share with those in need, pray with people, gather children and youth, share meals together, study the Bible together, teach the Christian faith, worship and pray, feed the hungry, care for creation, run courses to train and equip people to serve others... and much more!



Our church exists to encounter God, share Jesus, love deeply and live for the Kingdom! We are all about Jesus and bringing His good news to everyone we meet.

Fully meet the everyday costs of being open

The church is the people and people are at the heart of our ministry. God has also blessed us with amazing facilities and an excellent staff team to enable so much to happen. This means we have expenses such as paying salaries and costs for our staff, maintaining buildings (utilities, repairs, insurance, servicing etc). We also support mission elsewhere in the UK and overseas. Other costs include cleaning, administration, publicity and Diocesan support. These everyday costs are part of what it means for us to reach out to people.

Freedom to give as you are able, and as the Lord leads!

We are mindful that all our circumstances are different and there is a cost of living crisis which is very real for so many, so if you are in financial need right now, please feel free to let this pass by. We want you to be free to give or not to give to these Gift Days.

It may also be that you are in a financial position to be very generous and to give beyond what you might usually do. Sometimes God gives wealth, so we can be generous and serve others with our giving.

We want you to feel free to pray, and decide in your heart what God wants you to give, and to give freely, cheerfully and peacefully.

Further general information

- We would encourage church members who are able to consider setting up or increasing their Standing Order and to give with Gift Aid please.
- Please don't forget to Gift Aid all your donations, as this means we can claim a further 25% from the government, which is amazing!
- In January, the Treasurer (Rich Milne) and and Vicar wrote a financial update to the church family. This outlined in more detail the current needs. If you did not see that letter or wish to see it again, or ask any questions, please email office@stmaryssloughton.com

Giving Goal

The church leadership has set an approximate giving goal of:

£50,000

This is our current budget deficit for 2023. This includes all our costs of ministry and mission. If we could raise this sum, we would balance our budget and not need to draw on essential reserves. We do have a policy of keeping 3 months of expenditure in our reserves.

How can I give?

- 1) Give online on our website stmaryssloughton.com where there is a 'Give' section.
- 2) Use the form over the page and bring your gift and giving from on 26 March or 2 April.
- 3) Do a bank transfer to our church account:
Sort Code: 40-30-25
Acc No: 00724580
- 4) Set up or review your Standing Order. Forms available online.
- 5) Make sure you Gift Aid your donation as we get an extra 25% from the government.

Giving Form - please complete and return to St Mary's

I would like to give to the 'Streams of Hope' Gift Days.

Name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Email _____ Phone _____

I/we wish to give a lump sum of £_____ to St Mary's, Loughton

*Please make cheques payable to **St. Mary's Loughton PCC.***

If you pay UK tax, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration below.

St. Mary's Church Gift Aid Declaration

To be completed by the main tax payer for a joint account

I would like St. Mary's Church Loughton to treat all donations I have made to Streams of Hope Gift Days and any other donations to St. Mary's Church I make, from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

Date _____ Signed _____

Notes

If you wish to you can cancel the declaration at any time, please notify us.

You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that we reclaim on your donations in the tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give). VAT and Council Tax are not included.

If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your self-assessment tax return. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, please contact us or ask at your local tax office for leaflet IR65 Gift Aid. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that we reclaim, you can cancel your declaration (see first note above). Please notify us if you change your name or address.

Thank you so much!

Every gift is greatly appreciated