

St Mary's Financial Update & Gift Days: 22 & 29 March 2026

Thank you for your generosity! We are so grateful for every gift given to St Mary's.

As disciples of Jesus, we trust God as our Provider and we start this update with a call to prayer. We invite you to join us for a special **Kingdom Come Prayer evening on 17 March (7-8pm at the Hope Centre)**. If you can't come in person, please join in from home.

Some may also feel led to both **fast and pray**, asking God for financial breakthrough—not just for our church but for transformed lives through St Mary's ministry.

What the Bible Teaches About Generosity

Handling money in a way that honours God transforms how we view all of our resources. In March, we'll be teaching on generosity, and as we did last year, we highly recommend **John Mark Comer's "Practicing the Way" generosity series on YouTube**:

1. **There is more joy in giving than receiving** - <https://youtu.be/w61lP0Au2Y8?si=5NZtFLJ-5C-IW1kU>
2. **Watch out for greed** - <https://youtu.be/H-mF3mnUN4l?si=M40l9uBbK4JnxSXT>
3. **Everything belongs to God** - <https://youtu.be/uHjzyjs4J7M?si=da61dTLW6GTRk5H>
4. **Be generous to the poor** - https://youtu.be/tUjeHvw7-Ws?si=clrj2h8rkQ_csWqz
5. **Best practices for generosity** - <https://youtu.be/RQQx21d-mXs?si=GUcgP6Xv0uSaDJjw>

These sessions help us connect giving to our spiritual formation as disciples of Jesus.

St Mary's Financial Update

We want to be transparent about our finances because a good understanding of our church's financial health is part of belonging to St Mary's.

Our PCC (church trustees) oversee our church finances, ensuring we manage resources wisely. We also apply for grants and look for cost-saving measures where possible.

However, our current level of income is not sustainable. Running St Mary's costs **£35,000 per month (£1,100 per day)**, covering:

- 📌 Diocese payments
- 📌 Staff salaries
- 📌 Mission and ministry costs
- 📌 Utilities, insurance, maintenance & cleaning
- 📌 Missions support, evangelism & more

We are in a **new season** and we have a **big vision** to share the good news of Jesus with our communities. So many lives are being touched by the mission and ministry of St Mary's. All our giving is about the gospel being spread, people being loved and Jesus being glorified.

It is important to know, **we don't receive regular money from the Church of England**—in fact, we give to support other churches in our Diocese.

For 2026, we have a **£45,000 budget deficit**. This means we need more money to help with our daily cost of ministry. Our regular giving would need to increase by 18% to plug this gap.

Also, since setting the budget, we face a larger than normal series of extraordinary, and in some cases, unforeseen additional costs. These are in addition to our deficit.

- ✂ An extra £10K to fund a lost grant for the post of Living Hope Assistant.
- ✂ An extra £20K to pay for 11 areas of important maintenance. Detailed information is available on our giving page online.
- ✂ An extra £2K to resource our worship ministry with improved equipment.

To help close this gap and strengthen our reserves, we are holding **Gift Days on 22 & 29 March**, aiming to raise **£80,000**. This will allow us to:

- ✂ Cover the budget shortfall
- ✂ Complete significant building maintenance.
- ✂ Fund our staffing for mission.

If you are able, we encourage **regular giving** through **Standing Order** and **Gift Aid**. For the Gift Days we also encourage giving whatever lump sum you prayerfully feel it right to give. However, if you're facing financial hardship, **please feel no pressure to give**.

Attached below you will find a special leaflet explaining the Gift Days in March

Click here to watch a video from Malcolm introducing the Gift Days.

If you have any questions please feel free to email us at office@stmarysloughton.com

Trusting in God as our Provider

These are challenging financial times, but **we serve a faithful God who provides**. In the past, we saw God move powerfully when we raised **£1.2 million** to build the Hope Centre. People caught the vision and gave very generously. That was only 10 years ago. Now, we trust Him again to provide for the ministry and mission of St Mary's.

Let's step forward in **faith, generosity, and hope**—not just to meet financial needs, but to see lives changed for God's glory.

Thank you amazing church family – this comes with heartfelt love and thanks

Malcolm Macdonald, Vicar

Rich Milne, Treasurer