ST MARY'S
LOUGHTON

NOTHING
IS
IMPOSSIBLE
WITH
GOD

Word cloud from all the prophetic words given for St Mary's in 2025

GIFT DAYS - 22 & 29 March 2026

These Gift Days are about funding St Mary's mission and ministry to reach our community as we touch the lives of over 1,000 people each month. This is life-changing generosity because it is about resourcing gospel mission and ministry.

We don't get any assistance in this from the Church of England. It is down to the generosity of our church family. **So let me say a BIG thank you for all your generosity.** It does make an enormous difference and it really matters.

Please read inside for more information about the vision for these Gift Days and how you can give. Please also visit our giving information online.

S**ince setting the 2026 budget, we also face a larger than normal series of some extraordinary unforeseen additional costs.** Our buildings really enable our mission. We need to keep them well maintained so we can keep reaching out. The same is true for our amazing staff. We do apply for grants and also seek to save where we can. **The social value of what we do as a church has recently been estimated at around £4m per year.**

We are aware that all our circumstances are different, so if you are in financial need right now, please be free to let this pass. If you can give, please do so joyfully, generously and know it makes a difference. Give as much as you are able, and trust in the Lord with all your heart.

With sincere love and grateful thanks, Malcolm

WHY ARE WE HAVING GIFT DAYS?

We are in a new season! To see a harvest, we need to transform our giving.

1. Sharing Jesus and loving our community

We see hundreds of people every week come through the church doors into Cafe Hope and also through the community projects run by Living Hope. There are stories each week of people's lives being touched as we serve, listen and support people. Our heart is to share the good news of Jesus.

2. Investing in and releasing our children and youth

We want to keep investing in the next generation of disciples and leaders. We have an amazing team of volunteers, and also one staff member focussing on this area of ministry.

3. Additional staffing costs for Living Hope ministry

For a number of years we have received a £10K grant to fund our Living Hope Assistant (working with the Living Hope Coordinator). Together they do vital community ministry, including Connect, Hope Supper and our Coffee Morning. This grant has not been successful for 2026. We are looking into other grants and sources of income, but as also seeking additional funding from St Mary's to continue this vital mission and ministry.

4. Essential building repairs & equipment upgrades

Our buildings are part of our mission. We are open all week. We anticipate 11 areas of significant need that include essential repairs and necessary upgrades to our facilities. These include repairing our main doors, lift and underfloor heating; redecoration of Hope Centre, church toilets and prayer room, replacing AV cables in church, new worship team equipment, tree work, car park subsidence work and replacing the LED lights in the church. This will total well over £20K of extra expenditure, not currently in the normal budget for 2026. Further details are available online.

OUR CHURCH FINANCES

We don't get any financial help from the Church of England. Almost all income comes from our church family. We also apply for various grants.

Some expected costs for 2026: Parish share sent to the Diocese (£104K); Employing ten staff (£153K); Utilities (£28.8K); Repairs (£20K); Away Giving (£6.8K); Insurance (£5.5K). Cafe Hope costs £46K to run, although it also has income. Living Hope costs £26K; Ignite costs £13K.

Our total expenditure for 2026 is expected to be £390K. We currently expect a budget deficit of £45,000. We cover this with Gift Days, but our reserves are at our reserve limit of 3 months of costs.

Further general information

- We would encourage all 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 we can claim 25% from the government!**
- Scan the QR code opposite for online giving.
- If you wish to ask any questions, please email office@stmarysloughton.com

SCAN ME

What we hope to raise

£80,000

This is our best estimate to enable us to fulfil our ministry costs and meet our full costs, including some extra costs for buildings and staffing.

Please give regularly

Planned giving helps the church. Please set up or consider increasing a regular Standing Order. Go to our website for more details.

How can I give?

1) Give online on our website stmarysloughton.com and click on 'Give'.
2) Use the form over the page and bring your gift and giving form on 22 and 29 March.
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 Gift Days.

Name_____ Surname _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Email _____ Phone _____

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

And / or

☐ I/we wish to start or increase our regular Standing Order to St Mary's,

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 / make to St. Mary's Church, 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!