



Generosity WEEK

***‘Where your treasure is,
there will be your heart be also***

Saint Stephen’s Lewisham

www.sswsml.com



Welcome to Your Generosity Pack

Why Give to Saint Stephen's Lewisham

We believe in a generous God, a God who gave up everything for us and gave us everything we could ever need. God calls us to be generous in response to this generosity and to share it with others. We should not see the money we have (either personally or as a church) as ours, but rather as God's and we are called to receive these gifts and to sensibly manage them.

And yet, so many of us find it difficult to talk about giving and generosity.

This document is a simple way for us to think about how we give and generosity in our church and wider community.

Jesus and Money We see through the life of Jesus that money, wealth, and possessions should not be a subject we are afraid to explore. In the Bible we find more verses on it than of 'faith' or 'prayer' and it is only the subject of 'love' that we see more frequently. The way we handle our money and our assets should be wholly integrated into our life as a follower of Jesus and our desire and calling to be Christ-like. Our generosity, in all aspects of life, is a hallmark of a lived-out faith and a testament to it. We are called to be generous.

Thank you for taking the time to look at this giving pack. Thank you also if you already give in some way to St Stephen's Church, **be it financially or by offering your valuable time and gifts by volunteering here!** We could not do all that we do together, without the generous sharing of time, gifts and money by so many.

How much do you value St Stephen's Lewisham?



St Stephens's Lewisham is diverse, warm and welcoming place. And thanks be to God that is so! What makes this possible is God's grace and our wise stewardship (how we each give generously to support God's work here). **So, thank you!**

If St Stephen's is going to live and thrive,

- ✓ it needs your financial help.
- ✓ It needs your skills.
- ✓ It needs you to volunteer your time.



By making a regular financial gift generous in giving.

For **'God loves a cheerful** you really can make a huge difference: your money not only keeps St Stephen's here, open, warm and dry, it makes mission possible. It means worship, clergy, music, hospitality, Sunday School and our outreach and care to the Lewisham community and beyond.

In this leaflet you will see our main sources of income, and our main outgoings. You will also see that congregational giving has not recovered from pre-pandemic days and so not keeping up with increasing costs (see the charts on the next page). **This is a shortfall we need to address in order to continue in our work and witness here at Saint Stephen's Lewisham.**

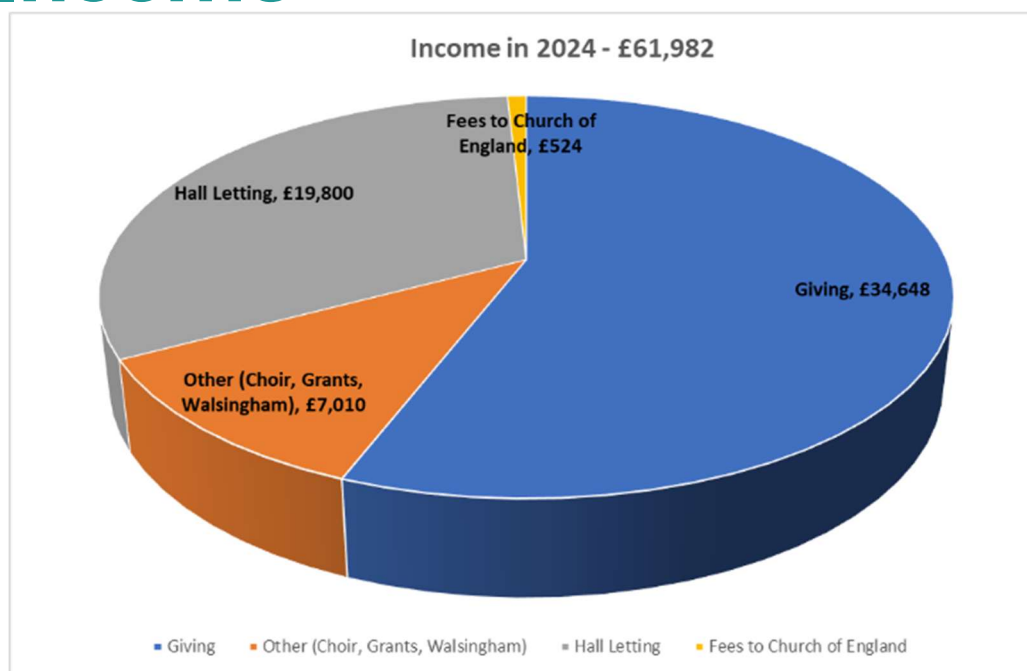
Jesus says, 'where your treasure is, there will your heart be also'. If you love St Stephen's and feel part of God's family here, please put your treasure where your heart is and be generous in giving.

For **God loves a cheerful giver'.**

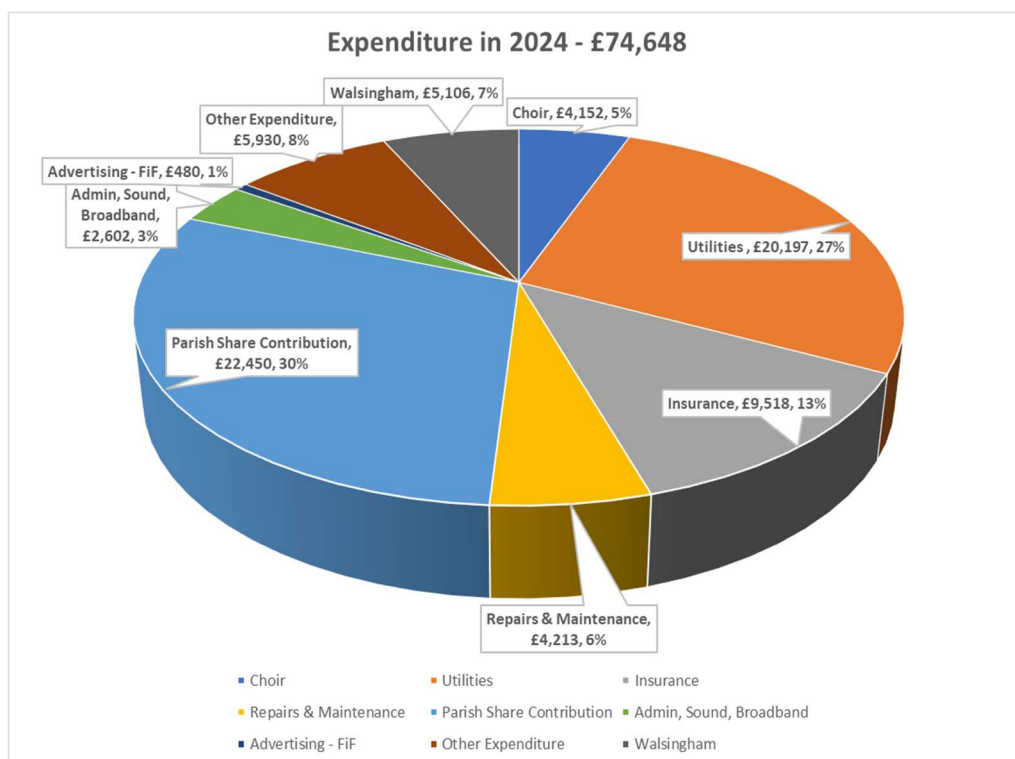


Income and expenditure in 2024

Our Income



Our Expenditure



NB Our Clergy are not paid for by the Parish. Fr Michael is paid by the Diocese. Fr Peter, Fr Stephen, Fr Lindsay & Bp Peter are all self-supporting. *(Some expenses are paid.)*

How do you value what you receive from your church?

Some Comparisons:

- ✚ Sky TV costs from £21.50-£65 a month. Would you consider giving that much to St Stephen's per month?
- ✚ The average cost of a takeaway coffee is £3.40. If you bought one a day, every day of the month, that would be £68. Would you consider giving that much to St Stephen's per month?
- ✚ The average takeaway pizza costs around £10. If you bought one every week, that would be £40 a month. Would you consider giving that much to St Stephen's per month?
- ✚ A standard Netflix subscription costs £12.99. Would you consider giving that much to St Stephen's per month?

Looking at the growing deficit, we have a challenge!

We do not receive any local or national government support.

We do not receive any money from The Church of England.

What we need to do.

Our expenditure in 2024 = £21 per person per week. Our income was £17.50 per person per week. **Our deficit was £3.50 per person per week.** This year it is likely to be worse!



If 70 people gave £5 extra per week this would give us an extra £350 per week or £18,200 per annum. Thus, enabling this church to have enough money to function and to put ourselves right for the future.

Please give what you are able.

Your Generosity

GENEROSITY is at the heart of Christian life. God loves us and we are all called upon to love God and our neighbour. Our giving is an expression of that love.

We could fund the gap between our costs and our current income in this way:



This many people	Increasing their weekly gift by	Equals this much extra weekly income
5	£20	£100
10	£10	£100
15	£5	£75
20	£2	£40
20	£1	£20

This amounts to 50 people giving an extra 325 a week — £17,420 a year!

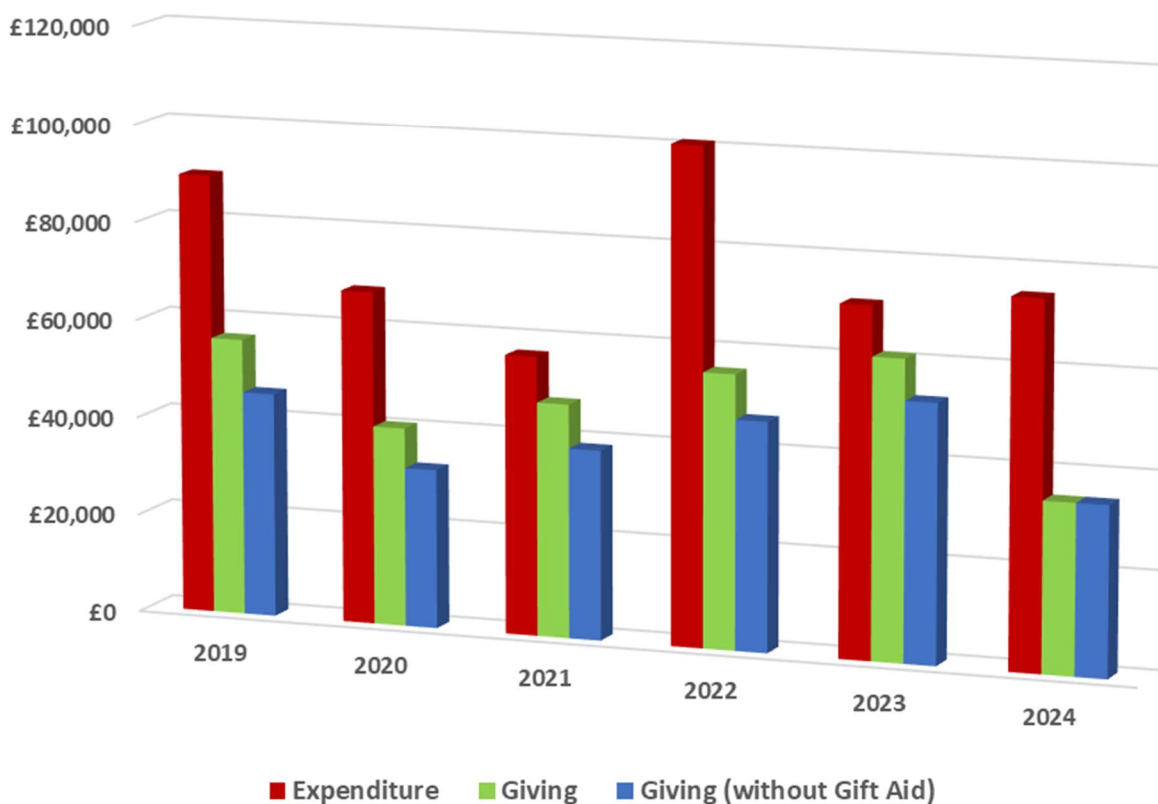
The Scriptures teach the principle of **PROPORTIONATE GIVING**: in other words, giving a percentage of our income. The Church of England challenges its members to give **5%** of their after-tax income to the Church



Your income per week	Suggested amount to give per week	Your Income per month	Suggested amount to give per month
£100	£5	£500	£25
£200	£10	£1,000	£50
£300	£15	£2,000	£100
£600	£30	£3,000	£150
£900	£45	£4,000	£200
£1,200	£60	£5,000	£250
£1,400	£70	£6,000	£300
£1,600	£80	£7,000	£350

The Financial Challenge We Face

Our Giving and Expenditure Over the Years



- Our Expenditure exceeds our income
- We have no reserves
- We have limited cash in the bank



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We know the current times are hard for some and not everyone is in a position to make regular contributions.

Please give what and when you can.

Please **REVIEW** your giving prayerfully.



What other steps could you take?

- ❖ Do you give regularly? Could you join the **PLANNED GIVING SCHEME**, ideally setting up a Standing Order (or take a set of envelopes) and so contribute regularly whether you are in church or not?
- ❖ If you already give by Standing Order, **PLEASE CONSIDER INCREASING YOUR GIFT.**
- ❖ Do you pay tax? Consider filling in a **GIFT AID DECLARATION FORM**. If we pay tax, HMRC will REFUND to ST STEPHENS 25p for each £ you give at no cost to yourself.
- ❖ Have you remembered St Stephen's in your **WILL OR LEGACY?**
- ❖ Make a donation. **All donations help!**

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Would you like to talk it over?

Contact Sandra, David or Fr Michael. Meanwhile, don't delay, seize the day! **Fill in the forms** at the end of this document and Sandra will be in touch.

**Your contribution will make
a real difference!**

Other Ways to Support the Life and Ministry of St Stephen's Church

A lot of time, different skills and care is part of making the life and ministry of St Stephen's possible. Financial support is needed for all of it, but there are **many other ways** to support the life and ministry of St Stephen's as well.

If you are able to offer some of your skills and time to the church, please contact Fr Michael Bailey, who is always happy to have a conversation and to explore with you how you might most like to be part of the life and ministry of St Stephen's. You can grab him for a chat any time after Sunday services or send him an email: frmichaelbailey@gmail.com or to admin@sswsml.com

Here are some ideas of how you could get involved:

- Volunteer time at various events
- Volunteer in Children's Church
- Organising a fundraising event
- Filling in grant applications
- Fundraising management
- Social media management
- Community group ideas
- Church cleaning
- Flower arranging
- Building repairs & maintenance.
- Volunteering for AV System or IT systems
- Volunteering for tea and coffee after Sunday services
- Volunteer time for administrative tasks
- Help with creating advertisements for our events and services



Standing Order Form

SAINT STEPHEN'S LEWISHAM



The Parish of Saint Stephen with Saint Mark Lewisham

Parish Office

Saint Stephen's Vicarage, Cressingham Road, Lewisham. SE13 5AG Telephone: 020 3294 8373

www.sswsml.com admin@sswsml.com

STANDING ORDER FORM

(Please print all entries on this form)

YOUR FULL
NAME _____

YOUR FULL
ADDRESS _____

THE NAME OF YOUR BANK _____

BRANCH NAME AND
ADDRESS _____

SORT CODE _____

YOUR ACCOUNT
NUMBER _____

Please pay to the account of

St Stephen & St Mark Parochial Church,

at Lloyds Bank 120 Lewisham High Street, Lewisham, London SE13 6JG

SORT CODE 30-95-02

ACCOUNT NUMBER 00523048

The sum of £ _____ figures _____ amount in words

On the _____ day of _____ month 202__

And on the same day in each successive month until further notice, and debit my
account accordingly

YOUR SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Gift Aid Form

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GIFT AID FORM

Charity Gift Aid Declaration – multiple donation

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:

Name of Charity _ THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST STEPHEN WITH ST MARK, LEWISHAM 1186447

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details

Title _____ First name or initial(s) _____

Surname _____

Full Home address _____

Postcode _____ Date _____

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Make a gift by using this QR Code:



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING STEPHEN'S LEWISHAM

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Thanks for the anonymous donations that made this pack possible