

Here are some examples of what your money with Gift Aid added could pay for:

- £10 a month will pay for the stationery for the children's clubs for three months
- £20 a month will pay for maintenance of the piano per year
- £60 a month will pay for the communion wine for a year
- £150 a month for a year will pay for a month's salary for a priest

To put regular giving into context: two cups of coffee at Café Nero cost £5; two tickets to watch a film at the Olympic cost £30; monthly gym membership – all too often wasted – costs £100+. We ask only that you are generous in the context of what you have.

Single donations: If your income fluctuates or if you are lucky enough to receive a bonus at work, one-off donations are very welcome too! Often, we receive single, generous thanks-offerings after weddings and baptisms and this is most welcome. Every gift matters and helps us.

We all have difficult choices to make in terms of how we spend the resources with which we have been blessed. We need to raise at least an extra £15 000 per year to meet our challenge. We must increase our giving to enable us to continue our important work in Barnes and to support poor parishes elsewhere in London. This is not going to be easy.

With your help we believe it can be done.



Our Church | Our Challenge | Our Choices



Our Church

St Mary's is a dynamic presence in Barnes. Our worship is the centre of all we do. Our music lifts the hearts of those who sing and listen. Sick parishioners are visited and comforted. Baptisms and weddings are celebrated. Funeral services offer consolation at a difficult time. Our children's clubs nurture faith. We are a mixed and vibrant community of people rooted in Jesus Christ. In a time of flux and

uncertainty the church is a symbol of continuity. When society becomes more polarised, the Christian message of love and mutual care is needed more than ever. Our support for the Southwark Diocese helps some of the most deprived church communities in our capital city. But as God strengthens us to serve him so each of us has a responsibility to play our part in enabling St Mary's to fulfil its purpose.

Our Challenge

The financial challenge continues and all members of our church should give generously if we are to continue this dynamic role in our community.



Maintaining St Mary's costs £285 000 a year, yet we don't receive any grants and must raise all funds ourselves. So, if we are to maintain what we have become and continue the support we provide, we need to ask you what more you can do? Your financial assistance is vital. Any money we raise covers all our day-to-day costs: from the wages of our clergy and other staff, to the paper, glue and glitter used by the children on Sundays. This year we contributed £169 000 to the Diocese (which covers much of South London) to pay our own clergy costs and also to fund clergy in poorer parts of our Diocese who otherwise could not afford a vicar. We have pledged to increase our contribution to the diocese next year to keep pace with inflation so our income needs to increase too. If you feel

blessed by what you receive from St Mary's we hope you will want to be a blessing through generous gifts of time and money.

Our Choices

Although we raise money in a number of creative ways, by far the most reliable and the appropriate way for our Christian community is **planned, pledged and regular giving**. The work of St Mary's continues day by day, week by week, month by month – and it has to be paid for on this basis. We hope that everyone who values the work of St Mary's will want to become a regular giver. If you have not already done so, please complete a Bank Standing Order form with Gift Aid. These are available at the back of the church or on our website www.stmarybarnes.org If you already give this way, thank you. This would be a good time to review your giving and increase it if that is possible.

