

What we need to do in 2026 and beyond

You can see from the figures on the inside of this card that the church is heavily dependent on donations from church members. That's everyone who sees St Mary's as their church.

Delivering our Church and Churchyard project is taking a lot of money and time. The work to secure the roof will be finished in early 2026, and so we will be able to turn with more energy and money to the Church's mission, striving to share God's love for all people. So, we want to:

- Meet all our needs for continuing as before: paying Common Fund for our rector, settling all the running costs of the church and church halls, and making modest donations to local and Christian charities
- Pay our church workers an increase for inflation
- Buy a screen and projector for the church and the halls
- Continue to host Winter Shelter guests and the toddler group, Acorns, at our own cost
- Make repairs and improvements to make our halls attractive to more paying users

In addition to this, we need money to meet the inevitable cost of repairing and improving our church, and keeping it in good order.



Hope

November 2025

"I've got plenty of nuttin'..." You may know the famous song from George Gershwin's folk opera Porgy and Bess. The conceit of this song is that having "nothing" is better than having all the worries and concerns of those who have plenty of stuff. It is a positive message along the lines of "the best things are free", but we would never want to push the idea of having nothing too far. As people of faith, we live as people full of HOPE, following the God of hope. Hopelessness would be a terrible thing.

But where does our hope come from? In the first letter of Peter (4.10) we read "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." As stewards we all have an incredible gift given to us to use for the benefit of all, nothing less than the grace of God. With the grace of God, we have all the tools in hand to serve one another. What form the grace of God takes in each of our lives will vary, but whatever gift we have each received we can give.

Everyone is able to give as we have all freely received. We may not perceive ourselves to be "rich", but everyone can give generously in proportion to what they have.

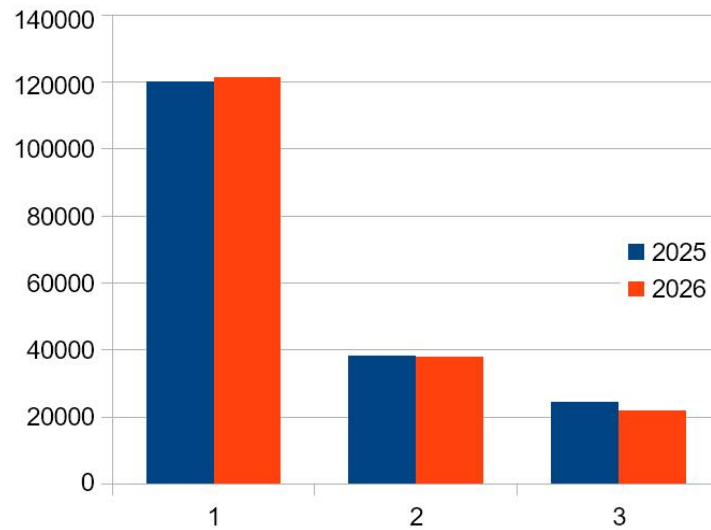
We should reflect on the fact that we are stewards of the grace of God who is the source of all our gifts and resources. So, be encouraged and full of hope because there is something we can all do in the face of all the challenges we come across as a church. Giving generously and seriously, we will be beacons of hope for the Church and the world.

The Revd Philip Davison

WHAT WE RECEIVE

Our anticipated income for 2025 is £183,167

Our forecast income for 2026 is £181,550

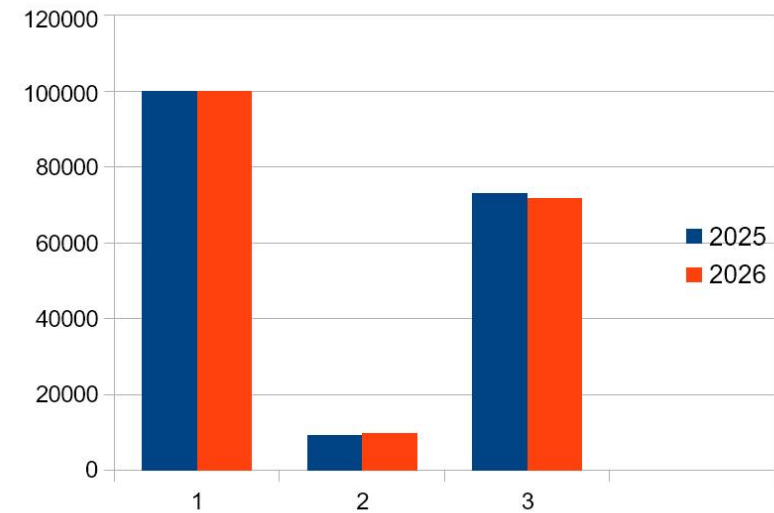


- 1.** Stewardship & tax recovered **2.** Premises hire
3. Other donations & collections, including bequests.

WHAT WE SPEND

Our anticipated expenditure for 2025 is £182,485

Our forecast expenditure for 2026 is £181,903



- 1.** Common Fund is our contribution to financing clergy posts in the Diocese
2. Mission allocation **3.** Running costs & maintenance

Income & expenditure figures exclude special collections.

***We are heavily dependant on gifts from those who love this church. The average amount given by them every month is £103.
An increase of £10 a month is equal to 3 or 4 high street coffees!***