

OUR CHURCH

For centuries St Mary's Church has been home to a company of faithful people, and today we rejoice in our heritage and encourage one another to play a full part in all the different aspects of Church life.

As well as being a place where we gather to worship, St Mary's is a reminder of the presence of God in our daily lives as we walk or drive through the village. Our work in the village continues and is growing: regular worship, study groups, children's activities, the welcoming of newcomers and the pastoral care of the sick and bereaved — ministry in many areas of village life.

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

We have a vision for growth of our congregation, to increase our community outreach, and to preserve and beautify our Church and its surrounds. What we require is faith, boldness, and generosity in giving according to our circumstances. By God's grace and our commitment, we will have the resources to accomplish this vision. Specifically, our priorities for our parish include:

- ✿ To be an energetic and attractive Christian witness in our communities and encourage lay ministry;
- ✿ To better serve our semi-rural community;
- ✿ To have inspired worship and present the Gospel to all;
- ✿ To engage with faith in a relevant and intellectually stimulating way;
- ✿ To reach out to groups under-represented in our current congregation, especially the young.

HOW ARE YOUR DONATIONS USED?

Your donations support:

- ✿ Our beautiful building – it is a sacred place dedicated to worship, prayer and witness, and it is open daily as a place of reflection and calm. It provides a well-maintained and welcoming venue for community gatherings, celebrating the arts, and other events for everyone to enjoy.
- ✿ The maintenance of the churchyard and its lovely natural setting where generations of villagers are remembered.

- ✿ Our parish clergy both here and in the wider family of the Church. We have a full-time Christian minister available at all times to serve our community. Your giving supports training others called to lay and ordained ministry so that the life of the Church will continue on in the future.
- ✿ Parish ministry, measured by every ill person visited and every bereaved family cared and prayed for, weddings and baptisms, every Eucharist celebrated, and every special Remembrance Service at the War Memorial, Christmas Carol Service, and Easter celebration.
- ✿ Our shared ministry as people of faith, working together to show the love of God through our service, care, comfort and compassion for others in the community and world wide by organising children's workshops, coffee mornings, supporting charitable causes, and highlighting social justice, as well as building fellowship through book groups, discussion groups, and social events.

HOW MUCH IS NEEDED?

Currently, our necessary expenses require approximately £2,800 per month. Sadly, donations and other income (such as from fundraisers and ministerial fees) average only £2,100 per month, leaving us with a shortfall of £700 per month.

GIVING TO OUR CHURCH

Firstly, a thank you - giving and gratitude go together. We give out of gratitude for what we receive from God. Also, we continue to be grateful for those, who, even in these difficult financial times, give regularly and sacrificially to support the work of God and this Parish.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ✿ If you are not yet a regular giver to the Church, please pray about whether you could consider regular, planned giving.
- ✿ If you are an existing regular giver, please consider increasing your gift.
- ✿ If possible, please make your gift by Standing Order by completing the form and returning it to your bank. You can also give regularly by envelopes.

- ✿ Take advantage of Gift Aid by signing the declaration form and returning it to our Treasurer. This means that for every £1.00 you give to the Church, the Church can reclaim an additional 25p from HMRC, increasing the value of your donation to £1.25 for every pound you give.

HOW MUCH SHOULD ONE GIVE?

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

(2 Corinthians. 9: 7-8)



What is a modest gift from one may be truly sacrificial from another. The Church recognises that these are difficult financial times for many, just as it is a difficult time financially for the Church itself.

The Church of England's guidance encourages Christians to give 5% (or £1 in £20) of their after-tax income to and through the Church, and a similar amount to other work that helps to build God's kingdom. This is consistent with the biblical principle of the tithe. If everyone associated with St. Mary's Church gave at this level, the Church would have less difficulty meeting its financial commitments.

We hope you will prayerfully consider how you can participate in helping to resource St. Mary's vision for the future.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

(Luke 12:34)



For information or to return Gift Aid forms, please contact:
Martha S.J. Griffiths, PCC Treasurer
21 The Hill, Garsington, Oxford OX44 9DG
Telephone: 01865 361730
e-mail: msjgriffiths@btinternet.com

Standing Order Form

To:(Your Bank or Building Society)

My Account Name:

My Address:.....

.....Post Code

My Account no:

Sort code:

Please pay to HSBC Bank, 65 Cornmarket Street, Oxford, Oxfordshire OX1 3HY, for the account of Garsington Parochial Church Council (Account No. 81225030) (Sort Code 40-35-34):

Amount (in words & figures):

The sum of £ (figures)

.....(words)

on theday of.....(month).....(year)

and a like sum each month / quarter / year *(circle one) until further notice.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS REPLACES ANY PREVIOUS STANDING ORDER DECLARATIONS.

Signed :

Date :/...../.....

Gift Aid Declaration

Details of donor:

Title:Forename:

Surname

Address

Post Code

Please treat as Gift Aid donations (please delete as appropriate)

(for regular giving) all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of this declaration and in the past four years.

(for a one-off gift) the enclosed donation of

£ or the donation of

£which I made on/...../.....

I confirm 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. I understand the church will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Signed :

Date :/...../.....

Please notify the Church 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 (40% or 45%) 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.

SUPPORTING ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Our Church, Our Vision, Our Future

