

Why a Gift Day?

As the hymn says, "All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above; then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love."

One way of responding to God's grace poured out in our lives is to offer our gifts of money, time and prayer. The church needs us all to review and plan our giving on a regular basis so that we know how much money we have to spend on our ministry, buildings and charity.

The purpose of our Gift Day is to help us focus in prayer and discussion on our own financial commitments and how we prioritise our church giving.

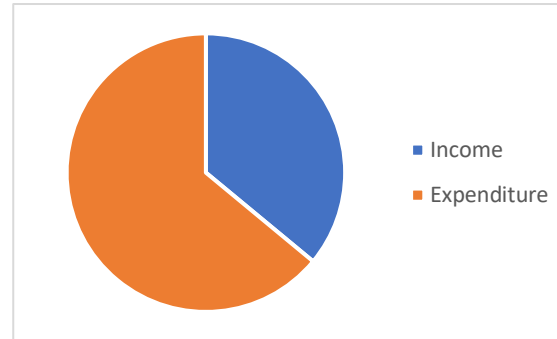
The current situation

We are not currently keeping our head above water. The PCC regularly reviews our outgoings, but in order to have an active church we do need to spend money. The majority of our outgoing is the Ministry Share, which funds our full-time Rector. Other expenses pay for Youth Ministry, Parish Administration, the costs of putting on services and maintaining our buildings, charitable giving and so on.

Monthly outgoings of c.£8,000 are funded by only c.£4,500 of monthly income. This situation has become an established norm for at least the last 12 months.

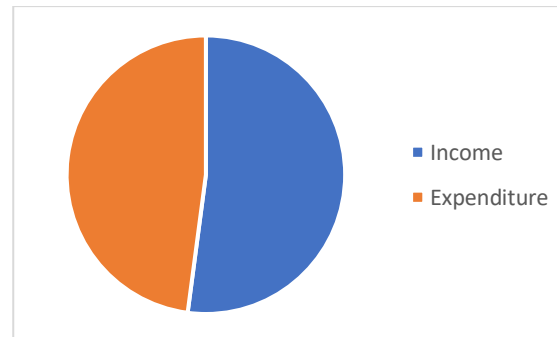
The aim of this Gift Day is to bring our regular giving up to the level of our regular expenditure on a monthly basis.

Where we are now



This means that when we receive legacies and other donations, we can spend them on specific projects that will support our ministry. At the moment, these gifts have to be used to offset our monthly expenses.

Where we need to be



How do I know how much I should give?

Here are some ideas and questions to help you think through your Gift Day pledge.

What is my income?

How much do I spend on:

- **Necessities**
- **Saving**
- **Hobbies**
- **Social**

My disposable income:

What do I currently give to the church?

How long have I been giving this amount?

Is my giving easy or is it sacrificial?

Do I give up something for myself in order to give to the church?

Does my giving reflect the value I place on my church membership?

Do I want the church to expand its mission in Linton?

What is my vision for the church in Linton and how it should be funded?

We have provided two pledge slips, so you can keep a copy of your pledge. Use the box on the next panel to help you organise your pledge.

My pledge

Pledges are objectives. They should be SMART: **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**ealistic and **T**imebound. Use the box below to help you structure your pledge.

I pledge ...

Specific e.g. to increase my monthly giving by 10%.

Measurable how to make it happen e.g. speak to the Treasurer.

Achievable e.g. can I afford to give this amount, what am I going to forego?

Realistic e.g. is this amount realistic not just from my point of view but from the point of view of the church community?

Timebound e.g. I will fulfil my pledge by the end of June 2021.

Prayer

All our giving is offered in prayer. Take some time to centre yourself and focus on God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.

Say the Lord's Prayer, read through your pledge and recommit yourself to following Christ.

Lord Jesus,
As you fed 5,000
from the gifts of a young boy,
we pray that you will transform our gifts
to spiritually feed
many spiritually hungry people
through the ministry and mission
of St Mary's Church. Amen.

Please write your pledge on the pledge slip that came with this leaflet or contact the Treasurer directly.

treasurer@stmaryslinton.org.uk

Place your pledge slip in the envelope provided and leave it on the Offertory plate on the Nave Altar on the Gift Day. If you are unable to be with us for the Gift Day itself, then please put your envelope through the letterbox in the church door.

Thank you.

The PCC of St Mary the Virgin, Linton



St Mary's LINTON

Rooted in God. Rooted in Community

Gift Day

Saturday, 19 June

2021

10am-4pm

