



Financial Giving at St Cuthbert's Church

'To know Jesus and make him known'

Thank you for showing an interest in the finances of St Cuthbert's.

Life and ministry at St Cuthbert's relies on God providing for us through the generosity of the church family and the wider church (through other churches & Christian grant-making trusts).

We thank God for the generous and sacrificial giving of many individuals and families

who together enable us to keep sharing the gospel with each other, and our local communities.

If that is you already – or if it might be soon – **THANK YOU! WE THANK GOD FOR YOU!**

The Bible has a great deal to say about money, our attitude to it and what we do with it. In the New Testament, the apostle Paul writes “**Each of you should give what he has**

decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion.” (2 Cor 9v7).

Financial giving is part of our discipleship, but – following the Bible's example - we don't want to speak about giving in a way that burdens or compels people.

Our giving is a heartfelt response to God's generosity to us. **As Christians, we know God's generosity to us in Jesus who 'though he was rich, yet for [our] sake he became poor, so that [we] through his poverty might become rich.'**

(2 Cor 8v9). We trust financial giving will come from hearts that are being transformed by God's generosity.

We don't ask people who aren't members of the church family to contribute financially. Neither do we expect regular attenders who wouldn't yet describe themselves as Christians to give.

For that reason, giving ought not to be a source of guilt for Christians, but an opportunity to be generous in the cause of our generous God. **As with every other area of our discipleship, we encourage members of St Cuthbert's to be deliberate and thought-through when it comes to their financial giving** (2 Cor 8v10-11). For most people that will mean prayerfully reviewing their giving at least once each year. To help us consider our giving, **we recommend John Stott's short booklet 'The Grace of Giving'**. (*Copies are available free at on one of the noticeboards the back of the church building or on the bookstall*).

In the Sermon on the Mount, **Jesus encourages us to do our giving 'in secret'** (Matthew 6v4) rather than in the sight of people. The apostle **Paul encourages us to plan and put into practice our giving** (2 Cor 8v11). While it won't work for everyone, **we encourage Christians who give to consider doing so by Standing Order**. It helps both plan and make 'secret giving' easier (only the treasurer and bookkeeper would know who gives). Standing Orders also make claiming giftaid easier (so we can claim tax back), and help the PCC to anticipate giving and plan how best to use what we have.

Our current ministry & maintenance costs on average c.£90,000 per year. Our main costs are staff salaries & housing (c.£65k) and heating, insuring, and maintaining the building (c.20k). (*About £10,000 of that maintenance is saved up and then spent every few years on building works. We can save that amount by delaying building work when we are under pressure – as we currently are*).

Annual giving by the church family grew towards £80,000 in the years running up to lockdown. As a church family of c.80 adults, that represents considerable sacrificial generosity by many to enable church life and ministry. Congregational giving has since fallen to c.£73,000 in 2021, and to £60,000 in 2022. As many of us are squeezed by rising costs of living, we feel that squeeze together through giving. Based on patterns of giving in late 2022, **the PCC expects giving in 2023 to be c.£52,000 – considerably below what ministry costs.** This comes at a time when financial reserves are lower, and grants are harder to come by.

The PCC is grateful to Christian charities and churches whose **grants have enabled us to employ a Youth & Families worker (2017-21) and more recently, a church-based evangelist.** Some of those grants are falling away, and new ones harder to come by. We pray for God's continued provision, and would love to be able to replace those expiring grants with regular church family giving (or one off gifts) to help existing ministry keep going (and even growing) into the future.

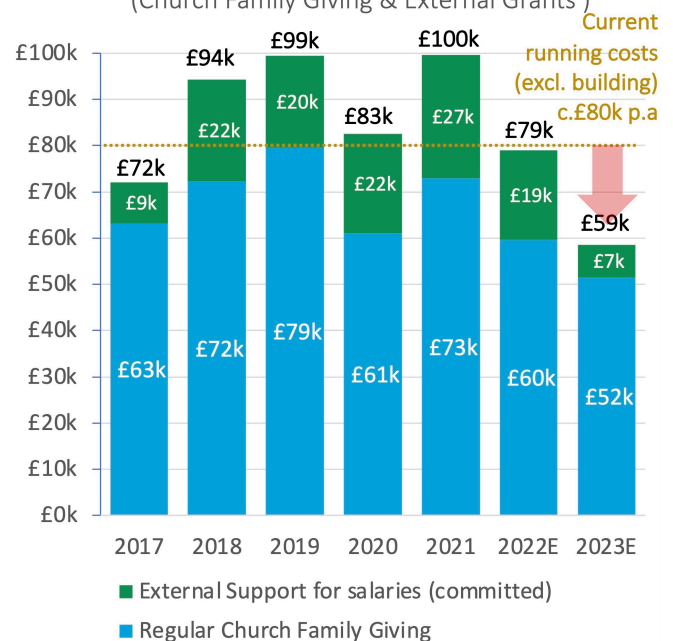
It is wonderful that in recent years God has provided for our growing financial needs through

- the **prayerful & sacrificial generosity of the church family**, and
- the generous support of **Christians beyond St Cuthbert's.**

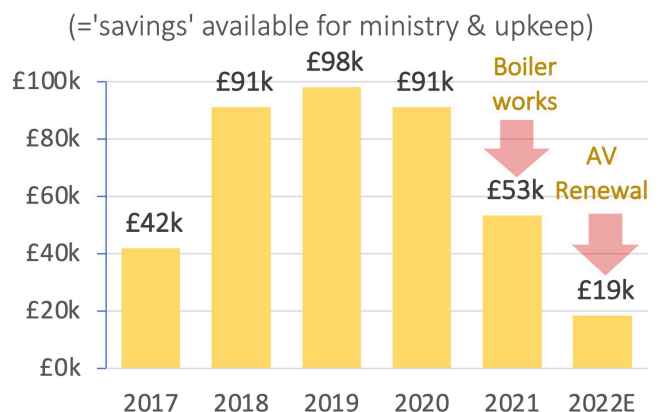
At the same time, we need to recognise that financial support it is getting harder, and if grants & giving continue as they are we won't be able to afford to keep doing all that we currently do (in terms of staffing & ministry).

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1v3-6)

Annual Income to support ongoing ministry
(Church Family Giving & External Grants)



Year end unrestricted reserves



Please speak to the Wardens (Robert Moore and Cath Pollard) if you have any questions about financial giving or the stewarding of our money. Some numbers above are estimates.

Vicar's discretionary Fund

A fund exists to support people in financial hardship or acute need (within and beyond the church family). Money is made available with the approval of the vicar plus one warden. This allows people's needs to be met without those needs being widely known about. (Confidentiality is sometimes appropriate in complicated pastoral situations). Thanks to the generosity of a number of church family members, that fund is currently well resourced. We will make the church family aware if and when it runs dry. The PCC reviews the level of that fund annually. In the event that income is much greater than demand, the PCC can re-apportion money to other ministry needs. (This is to preserve flexibility so that, were amounts in the fund much greater than expected needs, money could be re-deployed to meet pressing needs elsewhere).



Financial Giving Form

'To know Jesus and make him known'

My Details:

Title: Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss
/ Dr / Revd / Other
_____.

First name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

E-mail _____

Telephone _____

Financial Giving

I wish to:

- set up a new Standing Order for £ _____ per month**
(Please fill in details opposite)
- adjust my existing Standing Order to £ _____ per month**
(Please fill in details opposite)

OR:

I wish you to know that I have already:

[set up a new / changed my existing]*
Standing Order for £ _____ per month
[for the next ____ years
/ until further notice]*
to the "St Cuthbert's PCC" account;
sort code 60-24-77, a/c no. 18491227
*(*delete as applicable).*

AND/OR:

I enclose a one-off donation of £ _____.

Gift Aid Declaration

Everyone should fill out either (A) or (B) below:

- (A)** Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money that I have made today
and/or I have made in the past 4 years **and/or** I will make in the future.

I understand that St Cuthbert's will reclaim 25p of tax on every one pound that I give from the date of this declaration (and in the previous four years if so indicated above). **I confirm** that I have paid or will pay an amount of qualifying taxes for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal the amount of tax that all the charities I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. **I understand** that the qualifying taxes are income tax or tax deducted at source from savings interest, tax on State Pension and/or other pensions, tax on investment or rental income (including tax credits on UK dividends) and Capital Gains Tax on gains. I understand that other taxes do not qualify such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify **I 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 declare this and to pay any difference. **I will notify** St Cuthbert's Church if I want to cancel this declaration, I change my name or home address, or I no longer pay sufficient qualifying tax on my income and/ or capital gains.

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

- Or (B)** **I am NOT a UK taxpayer** and cannot sign the Gift Aid Declaration.

Standing Order Details:

To:

(Bank/Building Soc)

Address:

Postcode:

Please pay to **National Westminster Bank** sort code: **60-24-77**
for the credit of: **St Cuthbert's PCC a/c 18491227**

the sum of £ on the day of every month,

commencing / / ,

and debit my account until [further notice / / /].*

(*delete as applicable).

This replaces any previous Standing Order instructions given to you regarding St Cuthbert's.

My Account details

Account name

Sort Code

Account No.

Signature _____

Date ____/____/____

Thank you very much! You can give this form directly to your bank, or (to make life easier) give or post it to the Bookkeeper at St Cuthbert's who will send it on.

Bookkeeping, St Cuthbert's Church, c/o 85 Wolves Lane, Wood Green, N22 5JD.

www.stcuthbertschurch.org.uk