

## ENCOURAGER

*Sharing stories of God at work among us through our finances.*

These are good news stories about grants we have applied for and received over the last year. While we don't get regular financial support from the Church of England, we do apply for all the grants we can.



Mandy Chastell, our Living Hope assistant's salary is covered by a generous grant from Charles S French Charitable Trust. We are very grateful to them for their on-going support of our Living Hope ministry.

### Grants received through Living Hope:

- Waitrose £1,500 - for community Christmas
- Waitrose £1,000 - for general community
- Lidl - £500 - for general community
- Lidl - Nominated charity that distributed toys at Christmas to those in need, donated by Lidl customers
- B&Q Enfield - chosen for their community work day (leaf clearing and jet washing)

### ignite

A wonderful group of card makers meet regularly to make these brilliant home-made cards, headed up by Fay Curtis. All the money raised from the sale of these cards goes towards the work of ignite and in 2024 the total received from them was £776.50. If you need a card - you know where to buy one from! Thank you so much to the Tuesday Card Team and all who have purchased cards.



HOPE|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST FUTURE  
YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE?



**Mission Opportunity Fund** - the course materials for this current course of Hope Explored being run on Monday's in March has been funded by a grant we applied for from the Church of England. This grant is shared between local C of E churches. From the same funding we are also able to purchase a portable baptism pool which will be shared between the churches. This has been ordered and should be with us by early summer.

## Buildings

The stonework repair on the exterior and side of the Church has been completed, which was work that we had to have carried out under our Quinquennial Report (an inspection by our Architect that takes place every 5 years). This was at a cost of £13,000. We applied for a grant towards this work and we have been awarded £9,000. We are waiting to receive this amount, which hopefully will be available for us very soon!



Some of the work carried was to the stonework for this window

## Loughton Town Council Grants

Each year we apply for financial assistance from Loughton Town Council that will enhance how we can engage with the local community.

They have provided funding for the lights that go on the tree outside at Christmas time and in this last year we have also received 50% funding for 4 new chairs with arms for our mid-week community groups and 50% being donated by a member of the congregation. We also received from them 50% towards the cost of a new table tennis table, the other 50% was donated at our gift day in 2024 by another member of our congregation.

We are also grateful to LTC as they have also granted us £750 towards a defibrillator and we are currently fundraising for the other £750 so we can purchase one to have in St Mary's. We have already received a few hundred pounds of donations from our community groups in the first week of fundraising, which is great news.



## Away Giving

Each year St Mary's supports these mission partners:

Tearfund	£1,600
Open Doors	£1,600
Hope Now	£800
Philippe	£800
Every Life	£800
Wycliffe	£800
Mill Grove	£800
Voluntary Care	£800
New Wine	£800
Evangelical Alliance	£800
Int. Justice Mission	£800
Wondimu	£800

## Good News!

We have just heard this week that we will be receiving funding for a new laptop for Living Hope and new AV equipment, plus some funding for publicity.



## GIFT DAYS 23 & 30 MARCH 2025

Gift Days are a special opportunity to give thanks and support mission and ministry of St Mary's. Please take time to continue to pray about how you can contribute, if you are able. You can give in person during our services, online via our website, or by direct bank transfer. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness! Link for Giving Information: [stmarysloughton.com/give](http://stmarysloughton.com/give)