

ST MARY'S
LOUGHTON
NOTHING
IS
IMPOSSIBLE
WITH
GOD

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LOUGHTON



GIFT DAYS - 23 & 30 March 2025

These Gift Days are about resourcing St Mary's in reaching our community as we touch the lives of over 1,000 people each month. The purpose of giving is to share the story of God's love to the community and help them follow Jesus for themselves. It is life-changing generosity.

Much of what we want to do is free; such as simply sharing our faith with others. However, St Mary's does have significant expenditure in other ways such as supporting our amazing staff team, resourcing ministry in the Diocese and maintaining good buildings that give a home to much of our mission and ministry. We don't get any assistance in this from the Church of England. It is down to the generosity of our church family. **So let me say a HUGE thank you for all your giving and generosity. It does make an enormous difference and it really matters.**

Please read inside for more information about the vision for these Gift Days and how you can give. Please also visit our giving information online.

We are aware that all our circumstances are different, so if you are in financial need right now, please feel free to let this pass by. We want you to be totally free to give or not to give to these Gift Days. If you can give, please do so joyfully, cheerfully, generously and know it makes a difference.

With sincere love and grateful thanks,

Malcolm

GIFT DAYS - BIG VISION

Resourcing St Mary's to reach our community

1. Opening our doors to the community with Cafe Hope

We see hundreds of people every week come through the church doors into Cafe Hope. Our heart is to offer a space of hospitality, listening, prayer and sharing Jesus. We employ three staff now and have many volunteers.



2. Reaching those in real need through Living Hope



We have seven main mission focussed projects and communities such as Connect, Hope Supper, Saved food, English Classes and Coffee Club, which reach out and touch the lives of people in most need. We employ two staff now and have lots of volunteers.

3. Investing in our amazing children and youth

We want to keep investing in the next generation of disciples and leaders. We have an amazing team of volunteers, but also one staff member focussing on this area of ministry.



4. Improving our experience of church

There are a number of key upgrades we need to make to our PA system that will improve the quality of sound at the back of church. We also need to purchase a new electronic church piano and replace ageing staff laptops.

5. Maintaining good buildings for mission & hospitality

Our buildings are part of our mission and hospitality. We use them all through the week. Maintenance is part of our mission. We want to offer a good welcome to people. There are some essential upgrades needed. We are also facing a bill of over £6,000 to replace the LED lights in church. This needs to happen within this or next year. We are also aware there is much redecoration work needed in the church sanctuary and across the site.

OUR CHURCH FINANCES

We don't get any financial help from the Church of England. Almost all income comes from our church family. We also apply for all the grants we can.

Some expected costs for 2025: Parish share sent to the Diocese (£102,312); Employing our staff team (£151,644); Utilities (£29,850); Repairs (£18,500); Away Giving (£11,200); Insurance (£5,253). Cafe Hope costs £42,698 to run, although it also has income. Living Hope costs £25,132; Ignite costs £12,809

Our total expenditure for 2025 is expected to be £382,790. We currently expect a budget deficit of £41,000. We cover this with Gift Days and reserves, but these have been decreasing over the past few years.

Further general information

- We would encourage all church members who are able, to consider setting up or increasing their Standing Order and to give with Gift Aid please.
- Please don't forget to Gift Aid all your donations, as we can claim 25% from the government!
- Scan the QR code opposite for online giving.
- If you wish to ask any questions, please email office@stmarysloughton.com



SCAN ME

What we hope to raise

£60,000

This is our best estimate to enable us to fulfil our ministry costs and recover our financial reserves. We have a 3-month reserve policy.

Please Give Regularly

Planned giving really helps the church. Please set up or consider increasing your regular Standing Order. Go to our website for more details.

How can I give?

- 1) Give online on our website stmarysloughton.com where there is a 'Give' section.
- 2) Use the form over the page and bring your gift and giving form on 21 and 28 April.
- 3) Do a bank transfer to our church account:
Sort Code: 40-30-25
Acc No: 00724580
- 4) Set up or review your Standing Order. Forms available online.
- 5) Make sure you Gift Aid your donation as we get an extra 25% from the government.

Giving Form - please complete and return to St Mary's

I would like to give to the Gift Days.

Name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Email _____ Phone _____

I/we wish to give a lump sum of £_____ to St Mary's

And / or

I/we wish to start or increase our regular Standing Order to St Mary's,

*Please make cheques payable to **St. Mary's Loughton PCC.***

If you pay UK tax, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration below.

St. Mary's Church Gift Aid Declaration

To be completed by the main tax payer for a joint account

I would like St. Mary's Church Loughton to treat all donations I have made / make to St. Mary's Church, from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

Date _____ Signed _____

Notes

If you wish to you can cancel the declaration at any time, please notify us. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that we reclaim on your donations in the tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give). VAT and Council Tax are not included. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your self-assessment tax return. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, please contact us or ask at your local tax office for leaflet IR65 Gift Aid. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that we reclaim, you can cancel your declaration (see first note above). Please notify us if you change your name or address.

Thank you so much!