

YOUR GIVING

**MAKING CHURCH HAPPEN
BUILDING A GENEROUS CHURCH**



Giving Matters No, really, it DOES!

PLANNED • REGULAR • TAX-EFFICIENT



Give through my bank (Direct Debit)

Our bank details are:
CAF Bank
A/c No. **00020386**
Sort code: **40-52-40**

Give by text*

To give £5 text SNC5GIVING
to 70450
To give £10 text SNC10GIVING
to 70450
To give £15 text SNC15GIVING
to 70450
To give £20 text SNC20GIVING
to 70450

Setting up a legacy (in your will)

Have you thought of leaving
your church a gift in your will?
If you would like more
information on how to do this,
please speak with the Wardens.

*Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message.



GIVING

ENABLES

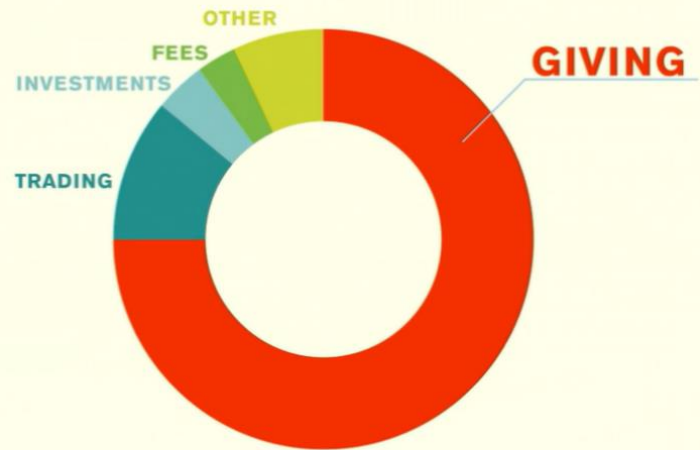
MISSION

I came that they may have life,
and have it abundantly

John 10:10

There is much to give thanks for at St Nicholas' Parish Church here in Chislehurst. For centuries our church has stood witness to the great love of God – it is a place of beauty and inspiration and a reminder of the presence of God in our lives. It is a beacon in times of celebration and joy, and through tribulation and trials. As a church we are both a building (place) and a community (people). Together we work as a witness for the forces of goodness in our world, especially at a time when we need it, more than ever. Our presence here today is a testimony to the great generosity of God and God's people.

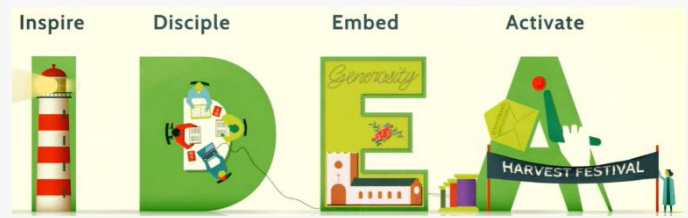
Generosity is at the heart of our faith, we believe in a generous God and our own generosity is a testament and hallmark of our faith in action. The ministry and mission of The Church of England is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it. In order to cultivate this generosity within our church we need both the right environment and the right culture. There are some steps we can take to grow this culture. The first is the PRAY that God will give us generous hearts so that we reflect the generosity of God in our ministry and mission. In our parish, there is a similar picture. Each year we are asked to contribute to the Church's central funds via our "Parish Offer" to the Common Fund. This is the money we give to the Diocese of Rochester in order to ensure our clergy are paid, housing and pensions are provided, and the staff of the Diocese and wider Church are supported as we work together to build the kingdom of God right here, right now.



An illustration of how the C of E is funded

(Parish Finance Statistics 2019)

At St Nicholas we are asked to contribute around £80k per year. We are assessed as being able to afford that amount. Churches that cannot afford to make a full contribution are supported – in effect – by parishes that can. In this way, clergy are deployed not only in parishes where they can afford a priest, but also in ones where they simply cannot. It costs around £50k per year to have one full-time parish priest. This is made up of the priest's stipend (£27K), plus National Insurance, pension, provision of rent-free housing, education and training costs. Paying to the Common Fund (our Parish offer to the Diocese) is one of our main budget demands. It ensures the ministry of the church continues across the diocese. After this, we must then look towards maintaining the historic buildings and resources that are entrusted to us. With a 15th century church building and a tired Village Hall, these costs can be significant. Sometimes grants are available, but general maintenance costs are usually born by us. Then we must turn our attention to funding our local projects, ministry and mission. We need YOUR help to do this.



Encouraging Generosity

4 simple ingredients are needed to help us to develop an environment which encourages generosity and giving in our church:

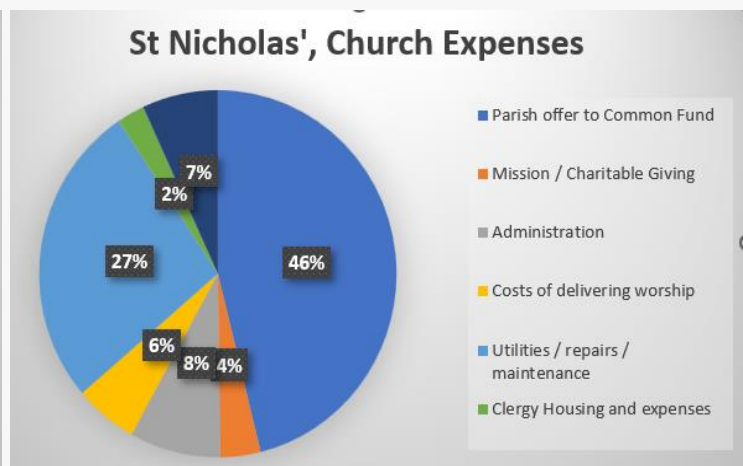
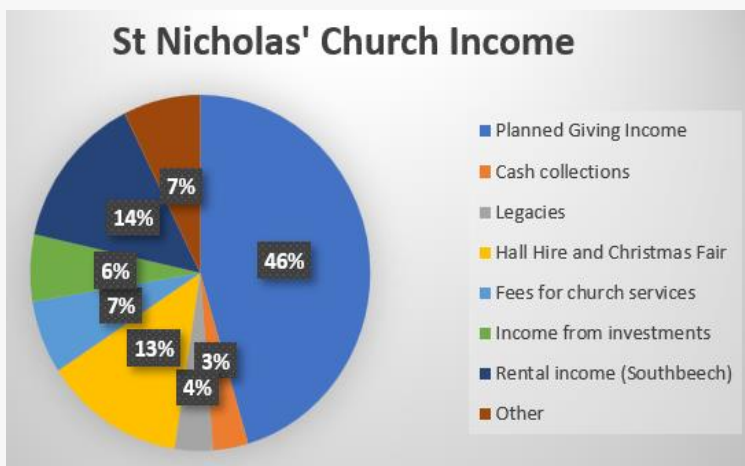
- **Mechanisms:** the tools that allow giving to take place (Direct Debit, contactless payments, online giving, giving by text, QR codes, gathering cash offerings, legacies, Gift Aid and so on)
- **Impact:** we want you to know and understand the impact of your giving – it makes a REAL difference. Without your generosity, church would not happen. Your generosity enables the church’s ministry and mission to take place both at St Nick’s and in the wider Diocese and Church. ie providing resources for education and nurture, community projects like soup lunches and befriending schemes, Toddler Group, provision of music for worship, charitable/mission giving to other charities and so on.
- **Need:** we want you to understand why we need your generosity. Your help is needed in order to maintain and develop our buildings, update our resources, maintain our infrastructure, pay our staff to support the work we do, to support other charities through our mission giving, and to address the wide range of individuals and situations that come to us for support
- **Trust:** we want you to know and trust that the church will spend your gifts wisely and well.

Growing Generosity

There are 4 areas to focus on in order to grow a generous culture:

- **Inspire:** we want to inspire you through the Leadership of St Nick’s and through the way we celebrate generosity within the life of the church
- **Disciple:** through resources, teaching and learning we want everyone to grow in an understanding of God’s generosity towards us and how we can live generous lives mirroring our generous God.
- **Embed** generosity within the life of the church – this means giving our very best selves and our best resources to God. This sense of generosity should be woven through everything we do together.
- **Activate** everyone by providing opportunities for giving graciously and generously Eg to Harvest collections, giving of time and skills, participating fully in the life of the church, giving freely and regularly

At a glance...



Giving to the Church Fund at St Nicholas, Chislehurst

So we can continue to MAKE CHURCH HAPPEN we need to ask all our members to regularly review their giving.

At the moment, we receive direct giving to the Church Fund here at St Nicholas, of around £72k
We are able to claim approximately £18k in Gift Aid, giving a total of approx. **£90k** from our regular, planned, tax-efficient giving.

The Church of England encourages its members to consider prayerfully giving 5% of their after-tax income to their local church.

Will you prayerfully consider your giving to the Parish Church of St Nicholas here in our part of Chislehurst?

By way of an illustration:

If every member of our church (264 people at present) committed to giving £1 a day to St Nicholas' Church, gift aided (where appropriate), we would raise

£120,450

compared with around **£90k** at the moment

We realise that some people can afford much more than £1 per day, and others much less. But we want you to see if EVERYONE plays their part we can renew our commitment to being a generous, welcoming, inclusive, and serving church.

From the 2021 accounts, our total income (inc from planned giving) comes to a total of around £180k. Our total expenditure was around £182k. The balancing of the books in this way is largely due to the exceptional work of our treasurer and carefully spending and budget management by the Leadership Team generally.

With rising costs, coupled with our hopes for the future, we need to ensure that we can adequately plan for the future AS WELL AS gain momentum for the building of our new Village Hall.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We ask you to consider the following (if you aren't already):

- Are you **giving** regularly and in planned, tax-efficient way?
- Will you **commit** to giving by Direct Debit, making sure Gift Aid is claimed, where applicable?
- Will you consider **leaving a financial gift** to St Nicholas' Church in your will?
- Will you **make a Response** to this information campaign, even if it is a 'no'?

We are trying to get everything in place to help develop our culture of generosity.

We invite you to join us in this task.

Help us to **MAKE CHURCH HAPPEN**

CHALLENGE

&

OUR PROMISE
to you!



We promise to use your gift to us wisely

We will:

- **Be clear about our Mission Giving:** throughout the year the PCC intend to make charitable gifts from our general Church Fund to support the work of our mission and charity partners as part of the work of our church. Each year the PCC identifies 4 charities to give to. We give away, in equal amounts, 5% of our anticipated regular, planned giving to those selected charities. This figure is supplemented by money raised from Mission Fundraising events: Harvest, Christmas Fair, Nativity Tableau, Mission Sundays and emergency/disasters giving.
- Contribute to the **Common Fund** of the Diocese of Rochester through the Parish Offer (£75k per yr)
- Make sure we resource our church with the intention to develop our **welcome**, our **hospitality** and our commitment to **inclusion**.
- Properly **maintain the built heritage and property in our care** to ensure its preservation for future generations
- Continue to develop and enhance our worship life together, as well as opportunities to grow in faith.
- Ensure that the pastoral work of the church continues – through visiting, through sacramental care, involvement in our church school, and seek to serve our wider community through identifying need and opportunity and responding to it
- Developing a vision for the future which ensure we do not 'stand still' but seek to evolve, grow, and make a difference for good in our community, nation, and world.



FINALLY...

- ◇ If you've never been asked to give to St Nick's before, **we are asking you now.**
- ◇ If you don't give in a planned, tax efficient way because you've just never got round to it, then **we hope today is the day.**
- ◇ If you don't give to St Nick's because you don't think we really need it, **we're telling you it really does.**
- ◇ If no one has ever thanked you for what you do give, then **we are thanking you right now.**
- ◇ If you already give generously because you can see the difference it makes, then **nudge the person next to you to do the same.**

Thank you!

