



# Giving money to support the mission and ministry of St Nicolas Newbury



St Nicolas Church Office, West Mills, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5HG

**Telephone:** 01635 47018

**Email:** [office@st-nics.org](mailto:office@st-nics.org)

**Website:** [www.st-nics.org](http://www.st-nics.org)

**Registered Charity No:** 1128145

Every year at St Nic's we ask members of our church family to think again about what they are giving financially towards the mission and ministry of the church. Maybe you've joined us recently and haven't got around yet to thinking about this aspect of belonging to a church. Maybe you've been giving to St Nic's for many years (in which case, thank you for your generosity!). In either case we hope this booklet is helpful for you as you think about your giving for the year ahead.

## **THE PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN GIVING**

In the Apostle Paul's letters to the Corinthian church he addresses the topic of giving several times, as he urges the church to give generously. Here are five pieces of helpful advice that we find from Paul. Christian giving should be:

- **Universal**

*'Each one of you should set aside a sum of money'* (1 Cor 16:2). Giving is not something reserved for just a few. It is for all God's people.

- **Regular**

*'On the first day of every week...'* (1 Cor 16:2). The Corinthians were instructed to set aside money on a regular basis. We should be thoughtful and committed in our giving not random and sporadic.

- **Proportional**

Paul told the Corinthians that each person should give *'according to your means'* (2 Cor 8:11) and *'in keeping with your income'* (1 Cor 16:2). We will not all be able to give equal amounts. What counts is not the size of the gift but the willingness with which it is given (2 Cor 8:12).

- **Sacrificial**

Giving is motivated by the grace and the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ – *'though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor'* (2 Cor 8:9). When we give sacrificially there will be things we will need to go without because of our giving.

- **Joyful**

*'God loves a cheerful giver'* (2 Cor 9:7). Giving shouldn't be guilt-ridden but rather a joyful response to God's loving generosity. It should spring from joy and lead to joy.

## **THE COSTS OF ST NIC'S CHURCH**

Per the categories below, our total budgeted routine expenditure for 2026 is £503,000. This works out as £1,380 per day.

The £503,000 excludes initial expenditure on our Building Project (funded from 'Legacy' reserves) and restricted expenditure (funded from restricted reserves).

- **Parish Share - £186,000**

This is the amount that we contribute towards the Oxford Diocese. Most of this covers the pay, housing, pension and associated costs of the three full-time paid clergy that we have at St Nic's. Our Parish Share also goes towards important central costs such as Safeguarding, as well as the wider ministry of the diocese. In the light of recent changes to teaching on sexuality and marriage in the Church of England, St Nic's has changed the way we pay our Parish Share: see [st-nics.org/ParishShare](http://st-nics.org/ParishShare)

- **Staff Costs - £149,000**

This covers the salaries of our Youth and Children's Ministry staff, and our administrative staff. (It does not include the clergy – see 'Parish Share' above.) It also includes training costs and other expenses for the whole staff team.

- **Church Buildings - £90,000**

Our church buildings are a wonderful resource for us. They cost a significant amount to run and maintain. In addition, we are always seeking to improve our buildings and facilities so that they are suitable for the expanding ministry of the church.

- **Ministry - £13,000**

This includes the running costs (materials, resources etc.) of the ministry areas within the church such as youth and children's ministry, evangelism and Sunday services.

- **Administration - £28,000**

This covers all office supplies, publicity, IT, phones, copying etc. It also includes fees for professional services such as our accountants.

- **Outreach giving - £37,000**

Each year we give 10% of our unrestricted income to mission and ministry outside our parish, both overseas and in the UK. This includes giving to our link missionaries from St Nic's. We believe that just as God has been generous to us through the giving of many people so we should be generous to others outside St Nic's.

## **THANK YOU TO OUR GIVERS!**

Over 89% of the income of St Nic's comes from the generous giving (including Gift Aid) of the congregation. We are totally reliant on each other's financial stewardship for the ongoing mission and ministry of our church.

Over 225 adults give regularly towards the ministry of St Nic's (this includes couples who give jointly through one regular payment). If you are one of these regular givers then thank you! You enable us to plan and to invest in ministry with confidence. Thank you to all those who have given in other ways, such as through one-off gifts.

## **OUR FINANCIAL OUTLOOK FOR 2026**

For 2025, we expect to report a deficit of £3,600 (excluding Building Project and restricted expenditure). This was funded by brought-forward unrestricted funds from 2024, so overall we achieved a break-even position thanks to the generous giving of the congregation. Once again, thank you!

**For 2026, we have consciously planned for a deficit of £91,000** (excluding Building Project and restricted expenditure) to be funded from unrestricted reserves and congregational giving. This deficit of £91,000 is due to a 20% reduction in giving, 19% reduction in legacies, and 61% increase in costs. We are blessed to have some reserves from unspent income and surpluses from previous years, which have enabled us to plan this large deficit. We will not be able to repeat this in future years.

Within the expected cost increases: 40% is one off costs, including urgently required repair and maintenance projects deferred from previous years which we would not expect to repeat every year. 60% is due to an increase in Parish Share, staff costs and building costs, reflecting cost-of-living increases.

## **YOUR RESPONSE**

We very much appreciate the ongoing impact of cost-of-living challenges; however, we are appealing to the church family to reflect on their response to the financial outlook above. All one-off gifts and/or increased regular giving will reduce our planned deficit.

Our **giving response form** is available at [st-nics.org/GivingResponse](https://st-nics.org/GivingResponse) or from the church office. This gives details of how to give and includes a Gift Aid form for tax efficient giving.

We believe that God has exciting plans for St Nic's church – he calls us to *be good news* and to *bring good news* in Newbury. As we seek to live out this calling and deliver our vision, we believe it is something worth supporting with our money.

If you have any questions about the church's finances contact our Treasurer, Ian Gore ([treasurer@st-nics.org](mailto:treasurer@st-nics.org)), or our Stewardship Secretary, Shalini Philip ([stewardship@st-nics.org](mailto:stewardship@st-nics.org)).