

Parish of  
**St Thomas of Canterbury,**  
Fulham



**Week Two: OUR PARISH, OUR RESPONSIBILITY**

*"serve one another with whatever gift each of you has  
received." - 1 Peter 4:10*

# Looking to the future with confidence

Thank you for reading last week's first leaflet for our Planned Giving Campaign, our first complete review of our resources in 15 years. In it Fr James highlighted three areas where there are financial challenges ahead and are the main focus of our Finance Committee.

- **Caring for our heritage:**

- Planning so that we are ahead of the maintenance needs of a Grade II\* listed building, rather than reacting to problems.

- **Nurturing our faith:**

- Planning the best worship we can offer God
- E.g. upgrading tech in church and No.62 and investing in music for the “Family” Mass.
- Investing in people – equipping teachers of the faith.
- Investing in care for each other – groups like the SVP.

- **Using our space:**

- Planning the facilities and maintenance of our site – the hall space in No. 62, Bowden Room, cemetery and the forecourt.

This week we look more closely at these challenges, some practical ways to address them and some facts and figures. Pilgrims of Hope in a Jubilee Year need to look forward, but we do so too looking back with thanks and appreciation for all the hard work, skill, volunteering and sacrificial giving that is the people of St Thomas's today and has been for decades.

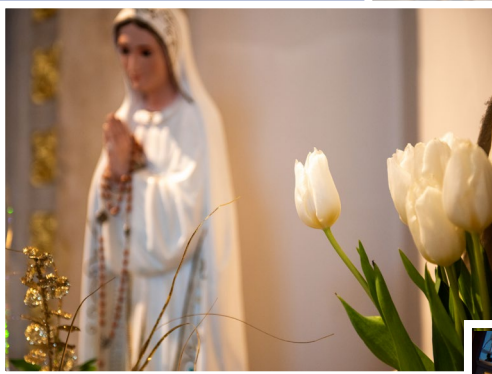


**DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR  
GENEROSITY ENABLED US...**

**...To be blessed in preparing  
75 couples for marriage  
over the last 5 years**



**...To witness 20 children  
and adults receive the grace  
of Confirmation and the  
Eucharist in 2024**



**...To baptise 28 souls,  
both infant and adult in  
2024 to start the journey  
of faith in the Church**



## Our Parish has a rich history as the spiritual centre in the lives of many.

To maintain the beauty and heart of our parish, here are some considerations which are helpful to be aware of...

- Day-to-day running costs
- Building costs & repairs
- Support for parish programmes & projects
- Saving a minimum of 20% of income received for emergency repairs

As Stewards responsible for the gifts received from God, we can come together to help look after our beautiful church & pass it on to future generations so that they can enjoy and benefit from its beauty.

TOTAL OPERATIONAL INCOME			TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE		
Standing Orders	£59,800	22%	Parish Ministry	£93,200	35%
Envelopes	£27,400	10%	Diocese Contribution	£61,700	23%
Loose Plate Donations	£29,900	11%	Donations	£300	0%
Contactless	£24,000	9%			
Gift Aid	£20,700	8%	Loan Repayments	£0	0%
Donations	£11,400	4%	Liturgical	£12,300	5%
Candles, Shop & Paper	£9,000	3%	Candles, Shop & Paper	£5,300	2%
Parish Activities	£8,000	3%	Parish Activities	£8,700	3%
Property Income	£64,200	24%	Property	£69,800	26%
Other income	£11,400	4%	Admin & Other Costs	£13,000	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£265,800</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>£264,300</b>	
(£) Savings 2024:	£1,500		(%) Savings Rate 2024:	1%	

# A stitch in time: why maintenance of our Church building matters...

Our church is beautiful and it enriches our worship, and enhances the quality of life of our parishioners. Quite simply it is cherished. We look after this church not only for us, but for our children, and their children, so that they are able to inherit this beautiful sanctuary.

(From Asset Survey) Over the coming 5 years we are anticipating that we will need to spend £250,000 on just regular maintenance. This work includes:

- Repairs to the South Porch and guttering problems £10,000
- Renewing the sound system £20,000
- Upgrading the Confessional space for Safeguarding £30,000
- Mending the 1840s heritage windows in the Presbytery £20,000
- Renewing the Presbytery/Bowden Room kitchen £10,000
- Remedial works to rental properties (Costs being assessed now)

(There's also renewing the lighting in church, which you'll hear about separately as we have substantial funding for this already.)

***"...Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood"***

*Acts 20:28*





**DID YOU  
KNOW...**

**If everyone that can GiftAid did  
so, we would at no cost to you,  
raise thousands extra per year!**

# Our Offertory income: How we resource our church



The graph above shows the fluctuation of offertory collections since 2018.

*GiftAid is easy to do, it doesn't cost you a penny and helps the parish even further!*

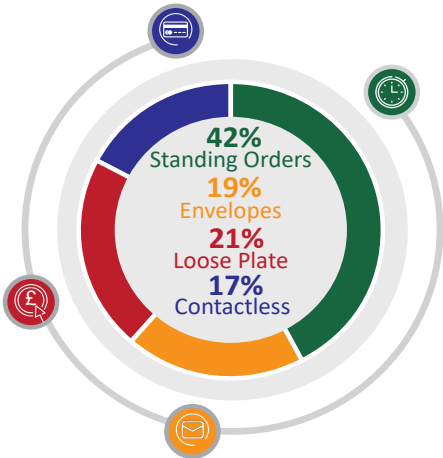
*giftaid it*

- 55% of donations were GiftAided in 2024.
- In 2024, 224 out of 508 parishioners Gift Aided.
- If you pay UK income tax, you are able to sign up to GiftAid.
- GiftAid allows us to receive an extra 25p for every £1 you donate!

*Please ask if you have any questions about GiftAid!*

# Giving efficiently: Why Standing Orders are so helpful

- Improves the regularity and consistency of church income
- Saves the parish time and money spent counting and banking cash loose plate donations
- Helps us to budget and manage our finances more effectively, and bank statements provide an independent audit trail for the Inland Revenue



***Please take this leaflet away with you***

***If you have any questions,  
please ask a volunteer after Mass or contact:***

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***To stay informed or donate to our parish online,  
please visit:***

***<https://stthomasfulham.com/>***

***WRCDT – Charity Number 233699***

