Funding Our Congregational Life Together

Lent to Advent 2020
Together we have already achieved so much.

Our shared giving has enabled us to build a varied and profound pattern of worship with beautiful choral music, opportunities for all of us to deepen our faith, and a growing community life that is rich and diverse.

We have found that our giving is part of us growing together as a community. Over 100 members of our congregation give through standing orders and many more through one-off gifts in our worship times. We would like you to join with us, funding our shared congregational life together.

Thank you.

Chris and Catherine (our churchwardens)
Sam, Sally, Richard, Jonathan, Catherine and Harry (our clergy)

Congregation and finance aims for 2020
by Revd Sally Hitchiner, Associate Vicar for Ministry

When the PCC (the governing body for our church, elected from members of our congregation) asked me to look at congregational giving I realised this is an invitation for us to deepen how connected we feel to each other, to our church organisation and to our faith.

This year I invite all of us who worship at St Martin’s to:

• **Understand** the essential points of how we pay for our congregational life, with opportunities to understand more.
• **Talk** to each other, helping everyone feel included in funding and ownership of our shared life.
• **Reflect** on what might be a meaningful amount for each of us to give.

Planned giving helps us plan

Through giving through a regular gift or payroll-giving I:
• help our church to plan for the year
• ensure my gift can take advantage of charity tax support
How is St Martin’s paid for?

For the past 33 years we have chosen, not just to spend but also to invest in commercial ventures that are within our overall vision for bringing people together.

Put simply:
- The day-to-day upkeep of our site is funded by our business.
- Special projects are funded by our team of fundraisers in the St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust.
- Our congregational running costs are funded by us: the congregation.

Because we, the congregation, take shared ownership for funding our day-to-day costs, we can all feel shared pride in what those funds are accomplishing in our life together.

St Martin’s ministries that are now self-funding:
- The Connection at St Martin-in-the-Fields - working with homeless people in London
- The St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity (linked to the BBC Radio 4 Christmas Appeal) reducing homelessness across the UK
- HeartEdge - Networking churches across the world to share best practice
- St Martin-in-the-Fields educational music programme

All of these are now all funded independently, multiplying the initial investment of our congregation far beyond what any of us could have imagined.

How is our congregational giving used?

Together, our gifts are doing so much for our church family. In 2019 alone we funded:

Ministry, including
- Our varied and profound worship supported by beautiful music.
- Our community building through shared activities deepening our faith, caring for each member and offering opportunities to build friendships that sustain us through the challenges of life.
- Our growing children’s and families’ ministry, helping the next generation explore faith in their own context.

Mission, including
- Our offers of friendship to 400 refugees and asylum seekers this year.
- Our welcome to 800,000 visitors, many of them looking for a moment of spirituality or community.
- Our educational programme, helping many to explore issues of meaning and importance.

Congregation running costs

With our site taken care of by our business, special projects by the Trust and the generosity of our self-funding ministries, we only have to raise £485,200 (per year) for our day-to-day running costs.

This is spent as shown in the pie chart.

- Clergy & Parish Share
- Congregation Music
- Admin Support Staff
- Office Running Costs
- Education & Comms
- Community, Mission and Global Neighbours

39% 25% 14% 7% 6% 9%
**Accountants and Accountability**

How do we decide how to use our funds?

Each year budget holders submit requests to Chris Franklin, our Finance Director, who draws up a balanced budget and presents it to the PCC for approval. In addition to this there is a sub group of the PCC who scrutinise the day-to-day financial work and allocation of funds.

Who handles sensitive information about congregation donations?

The information about who gives and how much is given is treated in the strictest of confidence by a small team.

Associate Vicar for Ministry - Revd Sally Hitchiner

Finance Officer responsible for congregational accounts- Allison Polius

Church Coordinator, congregation donor liaison coordinator - Sian Conway (starting 9 March 2020)

We also partner with iKnowChurch who handle our online donations.

For more information on any aspect of our finances you are welcome to our new annual surgery with our finance team following a Sunday morning service shortly after Easter.

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**Sally answers some FAQs**

**What if I can’t give very much?**

We value you being part of our community however much you are able to give financially. Jesus told a story honouring a widow who generously gave a very small amount to her worshipping community. Likewise, the least expensive thing we need to buy - our communion wafers - are the most essential part of our worship. By all of us contributing what we can, we can feel we are all building our shared worship resources together. None of us has the resources to fund our worship and community life alone. We need to rely on God and on each other and build this together.

**I give to The Connection at St Martin-in-the-Fields - should I give to the church too?**

Thank you for giving to The Connection. It is important that we consider how much we can all give to charities, particularly those that support those working people who are facing destitution. This booklet is about us giving to our shared congregational life that we all benefit from directly. This is separate, though both are important.

**I give to another church that seems more in need of my money, should I give to St Martin’s too?**

It’s great that you give to another church. If you regularly receive the resources we build here we would like you to consider being part of the congregation helping to fund this community as well. We need smaller and larger churches in the UK and it is good for us to look for how we can be part of sustaining each of the places we get spiritual refreshment.

**Why do we need congregational giving if the business raises so much money?**

We are committed to our congregation staying at the heart of how we provide for our shared life. As we join together to fund the day-to-day costs of our services and groups, we have the opportunity to deepen our experience of belonging and engagement in our community.
What can I give?

What could your monthly contribution fund?

**£5 per month**
gives communion wafers for one service.

**£60 per month**
gives printing costs for one service.

**£100 per month**
provides one member of our voluntary Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields with administrative and music support to sing at our Sunday services for two weeks.

**£600 per month**
pays for our Sunday service organist for the month, or a week's stipend for one of our clergy.

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How can I give?

**Direct Debit**
You can set up your direct debit through the Congregational Life section of our church website

- Manage your direct debit giving through our St Martin’s mobile phone app available for Apple and Android smartphone app stores, available from April 2020.
- Fill in the paper form on page 11 of this booklet and hand it in to our church office.

**Payroll Giving**
If your employer uses either CAF or Charities Trust for payroll giving, you can set up a monthly tax free donation to the ‘St Martin-in-the-Fields PCC’.

Because payroll giving donations are tax free and taken from your gross salary, the donations your chosen charities receive are greater than the equivalent net (after tax) salary value.

This means that redirecting £100 from your take home pay would pay up to £140 to the St Martin-in-the-Fields PCC instead, enabling you to give much more. Details of how to set this up are on page 10.

**Set Up a Standing Order**
If you wish to set up a regular amount to give to our congregational life through contacting your bank directly, please quote:

St Martin-in-the-Fields PCC
Account Number: 31120504
Sort Code: 60-40-05

To help our records, please put the reference as your first and last name. Once you have set up or amended a Standing Order please email Sian.Conway@smitf.org (starting 9 March 2020), so we can thank you.

**Legacy Gifts**
If you have been blessed by our congregational life and would like some of your finances to go on blessing others here after you have died, please contact Revd Sally Hitchiner and our finance team would be happy to assist you in setting this up.

**One-Off Gifts**
You can give either through the church mobile phone app, the website or in person at services. If you fill in a Gift Aid envelope or online box, we will receive £125 for every £100 donated.
Payroll giving

If your employer uses either CAF or Charities Trust for payroll giving, you can set up a monthly tax free donation to the PCC. Because payroll giving donations are tax free and taken from your gross salary, the amount the PCC receives is greater than the equivalent net (after tax) salary value.

For example: Civil servants can set up their payroll giving by searching ‘Payroll Giving’ on their Department’s intranet, then logging into the Mylifestyle portal, selecting ‘St Martin In The Fields PCC’ in the Charities Trust charity search field and specifying the amount you wish to give.

Employees at other organisations can contact their payroll/HR department for assistance in setting up payroll giving donations through CAF or Charities Trust.

On the rare occasion that your organisation does not permit payroll giving to a religious organisation you can give to us through the ‘St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust’ which supports the wider work of St Martin’s.

Standing Order Form

Please complete this form and return to your bank

I would like to make a regular donation to St Martin-in-the-Fields PCC as follows:

the sum of £ _______ (amount in words)________________________

payable on ___________________________ (date of first donation)

and the same amount on the __________ day of every week/month/quarter/half-year/year (delete as appropriate) and thereafter until further notice, and debit my account accordingly.

Or, if you bank online you can set up the standing order directly using the details below.

Please pay to: St Martin-in-the-Fields PCC
   National Westminster Bank
   Strand Branch
   PO Box 414, 38 Strand
   Sort Code: 60-40-05
   Account Number: 31120504

If you have an existing standing order please complete this section:

Please cancel my existing standing order for the PCC of St Martin-in-the-Fields in the sum of £______________________

payable each month/quarter/half year/year.

Signature

Date

St Martin-in-the-Fields Parochial Church Council is a registered charity number 1133936
At St Martin’s we aim not merely to fund our shared congregational life, but to fund it together.

Thank You!