

2024 Finance FAQs

General											
How much does St Marks expect to spend in 2024?	The original budget of 2024 was £247,204. The latest forecast expenditure is now £245,533.										
How much income does St Marks expect in 2024?	The original budget of 2024 was £238,696. The latest forecast income is now £240,483.										
Does St Marks expect a surplus or deficit in 2024?	St Marks is currently forecasting a deficit of around £5,000 by the end of 2024.										
How will the deficit be funded?	The deficit will be funded by spending reserves.										
What is the outlook for future years?	If we want to continue to fund all our current activities we need significantly more income in the future. This is expected to be about an additional £25,000 per year.										
Expenditure											
How much does it cost to run St Marks for a week or month?	It costs about £5,000 per week, or £20,500 per month, to run St Marks. This is the equivalent of about £40 for each adult in the Sunday congregation each week.										
Where is most of St Marks money spent?	<p>Most of St Marks expenditure is spent on employing staff (about 70%). The following pie chart breaks down expenditure into 4 main categories.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <caption>Expenditure Breakdown</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Staff costs</td> <td>71%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donations to other charities</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Running costs</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Utilities</td> <td>9%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Percentage	Staff costs	71%	Donations to other charities	10%	Running costs	10%	Utilities	9%
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Does St Marks employ/pay for any staff?	St Marks pays for two clergy; the vicar and associate vicar. In addition to this St Marks employees 5 part time staff: an Operations Coordinator, Children & Families worker, Director of Music, Caretaker and Cleaner.																								
Isn't the Vicar paid by the Diocese?	Although all clergy are paid by the Diocese, St Marks then makes contributions to fully cover those costs.																								
Does St Marks give to charity?	<p>Yes. St Marks has for many years given away 10% of its income to other charities both local and international. The choice of these charities is decided by two committees made up by volunteers from the congregation. In 2023 the charities we supported were:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>International Donations</td> <td>Home Donations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bwindi</td> <td>South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Care4Calais</td> <td>Bens Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christian Aid</td> <td>Citizens Advice Sheffield</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Global Justice</td> <td>Broomhall Girls Youth Group</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Literacy for Life</td> <td>Fir Vale Hub</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Middle Eastern Women & Society Organisation</td> <td>Mums in Need</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phase</td> <td>UWA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Practical Action</td> <td>Broomhall Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Succol</td> <td>Hope for the future</td> </tr> <tr> <td>USPG</td> <td>Inclusive Church</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hope for the Future</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	International Donations	Home Donations	Bwindi	South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice	Care4Calais	Bens Centre	Christian Aid	Citizens Advice Sheffield	Global Justice	Broomhall Girls Youth Group	Literacy for Life	Fir Vale Hub	Middle Eastern Women & Society Organisation	Mums in Need	Phase	UWA	Practical Action	Broomhall Centre	Succol	Hope for the future	USPG	Inclusive Church	Hope for the Future	
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Where does St Marks income come from?	The vast majority of St Marks income, 81%, comes from donations from church members. In line with all other Anglican churches, we are a financially independent charity and not only do we receive no funding from the Church of England we actually contribute to the running of the Diocese of Sheffield.																								

	<p>The following pie chart breaks down St Marks income by the 7 main categories</p> <table border="1"> <caption>St Marks Income Breakdown</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Giving to St Marks</td> <td>81%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Room hire</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Car park</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Investments</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Solar panels</td> <td>2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Home from Home</td> <td>2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Percentage	Giving to St Marks	81%	Room hire	5%	Car park	5%	Investments	4%	Solar panels	2%	Home from Home	2%	Others	1%
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<p>What is Home from Home?</p>	<p>Home from Home is a St Marks initiative where a portion of the money received in a legacy was used to purchase a flat. This is rented to Roundabout (a local homelessness charity) who use it to house young people leaving the care system.</p>																
<p>How much does St Marks make from hiring its building?</p>	<p>St Marks hopes to raise about £12,000 in 2024 from renting out the building to various groups for concerts, rehearsals, parties and other events.</p>																
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<p>How much should I consider giving to St Marks?</p>	<p>St Marks has no membership fees; the amount people donate is a personal choice and varies widely. However, the traditional guidance from the Church of England is that church members should give away 10% of their income (after tax) with half of this, ie 5%, going to their church and the other half to other charities.</p>																
<p>What is the average amount that people give?</p>	<p>The average (mean) monthly donation is £97. The median donation is significantly lower at £60.</p>																
<p>How many regular donors does St Marks have?</p>	<p>St Marks currently has 123 regular donors.</p>																
<p>What is the range of donations?</p>	<p>The range is from less than £10 to over £400 each month. The result of this spread is that 70% of donated income comes from 30% of donors.</p>																
<p>How can I give regularly to St Marks?</p>	<p>The preferred way is through the Parish Giving Scheme. However, you can also make donations by Standing Order directly to the church bank account. Sort Code: 40-41-18 Account number: 80724548</p>																

What is the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)?	PGS is a scheme designed to reduce the administration required in parishes. It is run centrally for all parishes and collects donations by Direct Debit each month and then passes the money on to each parish. Gift Aid is also collected by the scheme from HMRC where appropriate. The scheme is run at no cost to parishes.
How do I join the Parish Giving Scheme?	You can join the scheme either online at www.parishgiving.org.uk or use the QR code here ➡ or by phone on 0333 002 1271
Who knows how much I give?	Only two people; just the treasurer and the gift aid secretary have access to this information. The details are never shared or discussed.
How do I tell if I give through the Parish Giving scheme or by Standing Order?	If you are not sure you can tell by looking either at a bank statement or your bank's online app. If you are part of the Parish Giving Scheme your donation will be collected on the first working day of each month. The transaction will be a direct debit, this might be shown as DD. The description of the transaction will be Parish Giving Scheme If you donate by Standing Order you can choose when you make the donation so it could be any day of the month. The transaction will be recorded as a Standing Order which might be shown as SO. You can also choose the description that will be shown on your statement.
Is it more helpful to give regularly or occasionally?	It is more helpful to give regularly as it helps with budgeting and the understanding of St Marks financial position. However, all donations are gratefully received.
What happens if I can't maintain my giving?	You can reduce or stop giving to St Marks at any time. How to do this varies slightly depending how you give. If you give through the Parish Giving Scheme it is best to contact them directly, If you give by Standing Order then you need to contact your bank or update the details on your banking app.
What is Gift Aid and how does it help?	The Gift Aid scheme is operated by HMRC and allows charities to reclaim the tax you have paid on donations you make, if you want them to. This makes a big difference as it increases the value of your donation by 25% and is a major source of income for St Marks. In 2023 St Marks recovered £36,700 from HMRC through the Gift aid scheme. One off cash or card donations up to £30 also qualify.
Investments	
Does St Marks have any investments?	Yes. St Marks is very fortunate to have some investments. Some of these are set aside for fabric works but most are used to generate a vital £11,000 per year of regular income.
How are St Marks investments managed?	St Marks investments are managed through an organisation called CCLA. They are a very large investment management company looking after a total of over £14 billion. They aim to generate regular income while following strong ethical principles. If you would like more details either look at their website ccla.co.uk or talk to the treasurer.

Reserves	
How big are St Marks reserves?	St Marks aims to maintain about 3 months regular expenditure as general reserves. In the last published accounts this was £33,660.
Are there any future costs that would use these reserves?	The general reserves are mainly to ensure that St Marks can cope with any unexpected short-term financial issues. In addition, there are £13,174 of fabric reserves which will help to fund any major repairs or building work such as upgrading the heating system in the upper room or maintaining the trees and walls on the church green.
Legacies	
Has St Marks been given any legacies?	Over the last 9 years St Marks has received 17 legacies. These have helped to fund a wide variety of projects such as Home from Home mentioned above and our Children and Families worker.
I was considering leaving a legacy to St Marks. Is there anybody I can talk to about this?	If you would like to talk about this then the treasurer would be happy to discuss this in confidence. The best way to contact is by email on david.treasurer3@gmail.com