St Margaret's Whitnash Finances

Current situation

It costs around £180,000 to £200,000 a year to run St Margaret's church.

In 2025, the church expenditure was £191,552, and although our regular income fell short of this our total income just about met our needs thanks to a generous legacy gift of over £18,000.

In 2026 a shortfall is again budgeted. We are projected to spend around £15,000 more than the income, and to draw on limited reserves.

This is not a sustainable position. In the light of this predicted ongoing shortfall and the urgent need to spend money on repairing and preserving the church building, the PCC has made the decision to sell one of our two housing property assets. The house at 101 Whitnash Road is planned to be sold to release funds that are required for Youthwork (its original intention) and any shortfall on church repairs, with the balance of money to be invested elsewhere to provide a source of income. The rental of 101 has provided a regular source of income of over £15,000 per year.

Income

We rely on giving from our congregation and the use of our own buildings, as we don't receive any regular funding from elsewhere.

Our budgeted income for 2026 of £165,000 can be broadly summarised as follows:

- Donations including gift aid: £59,000
- Weddings/Funerals: £12,000
- Hire and Rental of properties: £94,000

With the proposed sale of a rental property, accordingly the future income from rental will significantly reduce.

Expenditure

The 2025 expenditure of £191,552 as reported in the financial statements, can be broadly summarised as follows:

- Parish Share: £65,400
- General running costs: £54,974
- Church utilities & maintenance: £20,798
- Church Centre utilities & maint. £38,302
- Operating of rental properties: £5,644
- Gifts and charitable donations: £6,434

We continue to look for opportunities to reduce costs across our utilities and services, but many of our costs are fixed, and there is limited scope to make savings.

The future

As a PCC we have been excited to see the growth of the electoral roll to over 100 people, and the growth in attendance at our services and at our children's and youth provisions.

In order to support our growing work among young people, we have now increased our budget planning for next year to support employing a part-time youth worker.

We also very much need to be running a surplus in order to save further for longer term projects to conserve our building and grow the work of the church.

Stewardship

Stewardship is a spiritual practice. As Christians we know that we are not owners but stewards of everything that we have, whether it is our money, time or the talents which God has blessed us with. We also know that we are called to give freely to support the work of reaching out in love to share the Good News of Jesus and serve our communities.

How much should I give?

Ultimately this is a personal choice, and most importantly it should be done with a cheerful heart (2 Cor 9:7). We are asking you to prayerfully consider whether you can increase your regular giving for 2027.

In 2025 we sought an increase in giving from the congregation from £950 per week to £1500. With

thanks we achieved an increase to giving of £1242 per week on average in 2025!

For 2027 we estimate that our giving needs to increase further from around £65,000 to £85,000. This equates on average to each person on the electoral roll giving around £16 per week, or £71 per month.

The Church of England guidance to us as stewards of all that God has given us is as follows:

(a) encourage church members (including children and young people) to live generously as disciples of Jesus Christ, joyfully giving time, skills, money and other resources to God's mission in the world, in times of economic stringency as well as of plenty, in response to the lavish generosity of God to us in Christ who made Himself poor that we might become rich;

(b) challenge church members to assess annually their financial giving as a proportion of income and to adopt as an initial target the giving of 5% of their after tax income to and through the church, and a similar amount to other work that helps to build God's kingdom;

According to the Stewardship Generosity Report 2026, the average monthly giving for UK Christians across all denominations is £116 a month, or 4.7% of their income. Committed Christians give an average of £326 a month, equating to over 10% of their income. This is four and a half times more than the £72 per month that is given by UK citizens to all charities, according to the Charities Aid Foundation.

Final request

Thank you for taking time to read this. Please consider if you can help us financially, by increasing your regular donation, or by joining our giving scheme.

Thank you,

St. Margaret's PCC

Have you joined our Planned Giving Scheme yet?

Our preferred planned giving involves making a regular payment by direct debit. This is arranged through the Parish Giving Scheme, details of which can be found here: https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/whitnash-st-margaret-royal-leamington-spa

St MARGARET'S WHITNASH

Giving and Funding for 2027

