



2025 Church Finance Update

Analysis of 2024 figures

The finance team has done a great job producing the accounts for 2024 and these are now with independent examiners for formal publication at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on May 11th. We wanted to share the draft figures with the church particularly as it is coming up to the end of the tax year and you may be praying about commitments and finances for the 2025-2026 financial year ahead.

Money that has been specifically given for things such as the Rock project is 'restricted' and cannot be used to fund the day-to-day operation of the church, so this is analysed separately. Please note these figures also exclude the Scout Hall finances.

	2024 Actuals	2025 Budget	Note
Donations including Gift Aid	£288,913.43	£348,100.00*	1*
Centre and Hub income	£98,146.35	£96,539.56	4
Other income	£33,827.74	£41,199.00	
Total Income	£420,887.52	£485,838.56	1
Staffing Costs	£191,329.88	£229,311.78	2
Parish Share (Clergy+Diocese support)	£134,687.00	£134,866.70	3
Centre and Hub Expenses	£51,347.11	£50,565.22	4
Church and Ministry Costs	£44,446.85	£45,932.24	5
Mission Partner Giving	£32,064.02	£28,027.00	6
Other Costs	£11,472.32	£11,660.00	
Total Expenditure	£465,347.18	£500,362.94	7
Transfers to/from Restricted (eg ROCK)	£23,261.11	£18,000.00	8
Surplus/Deficit	-£21,198.55	£3,475.62	9
End of 2025 Forecast Unrestricted Reserves: Church & Centre Capital Projects, Contingency fund. (Target = 3 months expenditure £125K).		£71K	10

For a further explanation of Notes please turn over...

Note 1. Giving and Gift Aid. Thank you to everyone who gives so generously to the Lord's work at ASW. Our regular giving increased during 2024, but we had had fewer one-off bank transfers and Gift Aid claims. We set an ambitious giving target for 2024, and donated income was within £6K of budget at the year-end. Thank you so much!

Breakdown of Voluntary Unrestricted Income	2023	2024	2025 (Budget)
Standing orders + Bank Transfer Donations	218,187	210,257	210,000
Gift Aid reclaimed	70,219	54,606	55,000
Legacies	-	-	63,000*
Other	22,457	24,051	20,100

*Our 2025 giving figure of £348K is a large increase on 2024, only made possible by the PCC's reluctant decision to include an anticipated legacy donation.

Note 2. Staffing costs were £14K higher than budgeted in 2024, as we have invested in a Worship Team Leader, took on a church caretaker and had a month of parallel working when Martha took over from Naomi as Facilities Manager. However the huge Government budget changes announced in November 2024 will hit us very hard in 2025, which means our staffing costs will rise to £229K in 2025 (over 40% higher than in 2023). This is a matter for prayer and careful management.

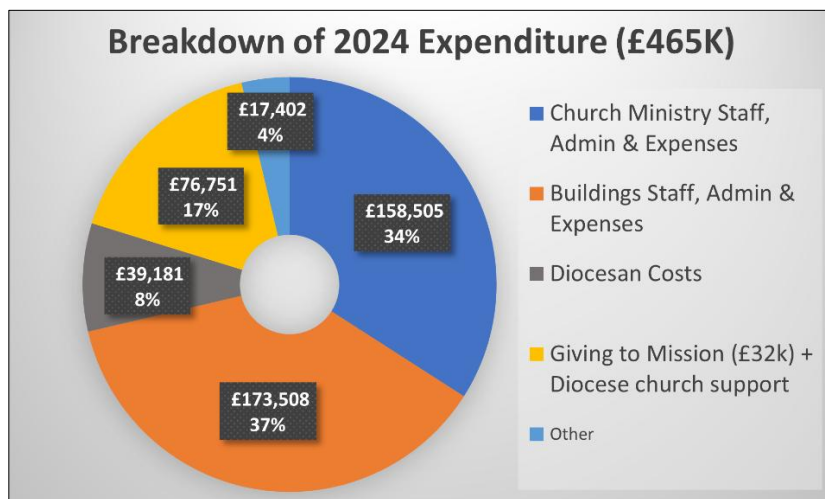
Note 3. Parish Share. Under the new 'Benefice Share' scheme, All Saints pays distinct amounts for clergy costs, Diocese costs and support for other churches in the Diocese. This amount should now reduce a bit over the next few years as we only have one stipendiary clergy post. (Curates are paid for centrally).

Note 4. Centre and Hub. We were able to make great use of the Centre and Hub during the ROCK project but we also lost some income at the Hub when Cornerstone Church moved out during 2024. Expenses have also been higher and we have since had to install a new boiler (£12k) in the Centre. The 2025 budget reflects the lower forecast.

Note 5. Church and Ministry Costs. Approx. £9.2K over budget. Some of this is due to handling more funeral fees for North Stoke and Langridge, but we also had large Alpha and Holiday clubs, 3 x recruitment costs and What's On magazine outsourcing costs.

Note 6. Mission Partner Giving. The Mission budget is set at 10% of the previous year's unrestricted voluntary donations and gift Aid.

Note 7.



Note 8. Transfers from Restricted Funds. The many hours that the finance and operations staff team worked on the ROCK Project are paid for from the ROCK project restricted fund. ROCK is also paying towards the first couple of years of the Church caretaker who started in September 2024.

Note 9. Surplus / Deficit. The £21K deficit in 2024 was actually very close to budget but we have had to use some of our contingency reserves to finance this. With God's help 2025 should balance better due to increasing income and a generous legacy. As things stand 2026 is accordingly predicted to be very challenging so this is a matter for prayer.

Note 10. Reserves. The charity commission encourages charities to maintain reserves equivalent to 3 months expenditure. We started 2025 with around £71K in reserves, but the prudent target amount has now increased to £125K due to rising expenditure.

Outlook for 2025 and 2026

Despite our Parish Share payments starting to reduce somewhat over the next few years, we are facing significant cost rises due to inflationary pressures and measures introduced at the Nov 24 government budget. We have invested in staffing and so we pray that we will see the church growing both in depth of discipleship as well as in mission and outreach. By worldly measures, the bottom line in 2026 is very challenging, however God has always provided for us and Philippians 4:19 reminds us '*God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*'

So how can we respond? Please pray, review and plan your giving for the coming year, and give thanks for all that God is doing amongst us.

If you want to know more about different ways to give, please see details on page 3 or speak to the Treasurer, Rob Gray, or one of the finance team. If you are a taxpayer, please complete a [Gift-Aid form](https://allsaintsweston.org.uk/giving) found at <https://allsaintsweston.org.uk/giving>.

Thank you for your continued cheerful and generous giving. 😊

How can I give or update my regular giving?

At ASW we operate several schemes to help you plan your giving effectively, depending on whether or not you pay tax and how often you wish to make regular payments. The only people who will know how much you give are the Treasurer, Finance officer and the Gift Aid secretary. Please note, **January, April and October** (Harvest) are key points in the calendar when it is really helpful to prayerfully review your regular giving to account for inflation and the church's vision for the coming year.

- 1) **Standing Order or Bank Transfer.** You can simply instruct your bank to set up a payment to church's bank account:

Bank: Lloyds

Account name: ALL SAINTS CHURCH WESTON BATH

Sort code: 30-90-54

Account number: 01686424

- 2) **Giving online.** You can give online via our website giving page <https://allsaintsweston.org.uk/giving>
- 3) **Credit or Debit Card Payment.** Give whatever amount you like using the Sum-up machine and 'Give-a-little' App on the welcome desk (Contactless available).
- 4) **Cash or Cheque.** You can also give cash or cheques at one of the collection post boxes. Any payments by cheque need to be made out to:
All Saints Church Weston Bath.

If you are a taxpayer, please complete a [Gift Aid form](#) as we can then reclaim tax back from HMRC to boost your donation. If you have any queries about Gift Aid, please do speak to the treasurer or Tali Garan, Gift Aid Secretary.

Note: As a church ASW is allowed to claim Gift Aid on up to £8,000 of cash donations collected during services, however giving regularly by standing order certainly helps the church with planning and forecasting!

What about tithing?

Tithing is a biblical principle meaning a *tenth*. Tithing income was a requirement of the Old Testament law, but Jesus encouraged his followers to give generously, not out of legalistic duty. You shouldn't give, for example, if you are facing mounting debts or are in financial jeopardy.

However, the Apostle Paul adds:

***'See to it that you excel in this grace of giving.'* 2 Cor 8v7**

***'Whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Everyone should give what they have decided in their hearts to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'* 2 Corinthians 9v7**

Please email giving@allsaintsweston.org.uk or call 01225 447663 if you have any giving related questions, or just speak to the treasurer or one of the office staff.



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