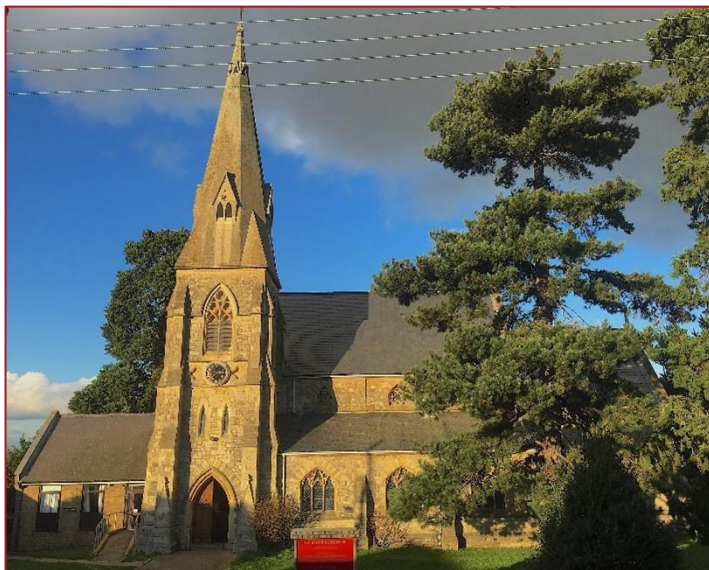


# St John the Evangelist Higham



Our beautiful building is a welcoming space. We maintain the tradition of daily Mass and Morning and Evening Prayer. Worship is at the heart of our parish life, and we are committed to spiritual growth and renewal.

Our links with our community are strong and vibrant, especially through the Pastoral Offices and our social events, and we are well connected with our village and beyond.

St John's is a warm and nurturing place, open every day for private prayer. It is valued by our congregation and the community beyond.

## Why should we give money to the Church?

When we give both money and time we support the mission of God in the world – both here in Higham and further afield. We give to our church because we see God’s generosity in the world around us, and we understand that by increasing our giving we will help to grow God’s Kingdom.

Because of God’s generosity, we want to share God’s Word and reach out in love to our community as Christ’s disciples. In our giving, God’s generous abundance flows through us to enable our church to flourish.

## Our church finances

**Every parish in the Church of England is responsible for funding themselves.** There is nothing from the government and nothing direct from the central Church of England. When we think about our giving to St John’s it’s helpful to know how much we have, and what we spend it on each month.

Monthly Expenses		Monthly Income	
Admin & ministry expenses	£1,025	Planned Giving	£3,333
St John’s running costs, inc Vestry Hall	£2,321	Gift Aid	£917
Common Fund	£3,750	Cash collections	£188
Charity/mission giving	£151	Fundraising income	£583
Sundries	£154	Rental & trading income	£1,991
Total	£7,401	Other	£53
		Total	£7,065

## How much money should we give?

It’s up to you! As the difficulties of the Covid pandemic have eased, we have seen an energy crisis, high inflation and significantly higher interest rates. Some of us have really struggled to pay the bills, though others will still be comfortable.

However, the New Testament teaches us to be generous in giving to God, who has been generous to us. Please think and pray and decide what is right for you to give to God through His church here in Higham.

## The Common Fund

The Common Fund is a pot of money into which every parish pays. It is used to pay for and support our priests, and to further the work of the Church in every parish across the Diocese of Rochester.

Common fund pays for our clergy, their housing and ongoing training and development. It pays for the training of our future clergy, and also pays for safeguarding, legal structures, communications and financial governance.

Our Diocese is a wonderfully diverse and vibrant community of faith, with each parish facing different challenges and needs. As a Diocese we want to meet these challenges as a family of faith, supporting one another as we seek to grow disciples, enrich communities, and resource our mission and ministry. The Common Fund helps us realise this ambition. It means your contribution really matters.

## Think about planned giving

Most of our church family give a set amount to the church each week, month or year, usually by standing order.

If you are not already part of Planned Giving please set up a standing order to give regularly. We are lucky that our priest can give all his time to us, but we need to support this ministry with our generous giving.

If you give regularly your gift will benefit your church even when you are away. It will also help our treasurer, who will have a much better idea of how much money our church will have and how we can support our vision and plans for the future.



## The next step

Thank you for all you do for St John the Evangelist. Using the form provided please think and pray about what you would like to give.

Can you

- Increase the percentage of your income which you give to God through his church?
- Join the planned giving scheme by setting up a standing order?
- Alternatively, give a one-off donation (and Gift Aid it)?
- Leave a gift in your will to your church?



Please make your response using the response form provided and email to [stewardship2019@highamparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:stewardship2019@highamparishchurch.org.uk) or post to The Stewardship Secretary, c/o The Vicarage, Hermitage Road, Higham, ME3 7NE

## Thank you

We may have different amounts of money, different abilities and talents and different ways of giving. These talents and gifts, like our possessions and wealth, are generous gifts from a generous God, and we offer them back to God to use within St John the Evangelist and our wider community.

Thank you. Without your valuable contribution our church would not be here today.