

# Congregational Giving

Rooted in God's earth, we envision a just society and a creative open-hearted church



## **Thank you so much for all you have given already.**

At a time of great isolation for so many over the past 2 years, your funds have helped to keep our church community active and open throughout.

You have given food, companionship and clothing through twice weekly meals for people going through homelessness.

You have provided funding and support for people going through the gruelling asylum system. You have helped to transform St James's presence online, in livestreaming capabilities, a new website and a transformed ability to communicate much more clearly what kind of church community we are and who we want to be.

You have supported the continuing listening service through the Caravan, now a phone service as well (the number of people using this has trebled over the pandemic).

You have sustained the stipends for the clergy team and salaries for the vergers, who keep our church open, warm, staffed and welcoming for anyone who passes by.

**Thank you so much.**

**"You have helped us offer companionship, prayer, Bible study, theological reflection, advocacy and spiritual and artistic projects to anyone who needs us, of any faith and none, rooted in our own Christian conviction that everyone matters and all are precious to God."**

## **What are the funds needed in 2022?**

**To keep St James's open, active and creative means that we need around £1.3m a year.**

This works out at about £3,500.00 per day.

We raise all this ourselves: we don't receive any funding from the national church or government.



As a central London church with a gathered congregation, St James's raises funds in a variety of ways:

- by renting out one of our buildings as a café and a flat
- by holding concerts and events in the church
- by renting space in our courtyard for markets and events
- and by applying to trusts and foundations for specific projects.

A major piece of work in the past two years has been to further closely align our income generation with our values and mission.

This is a huge challenge but we are determined to generate the income we need in ways that are creative and just.



## Congregational giving

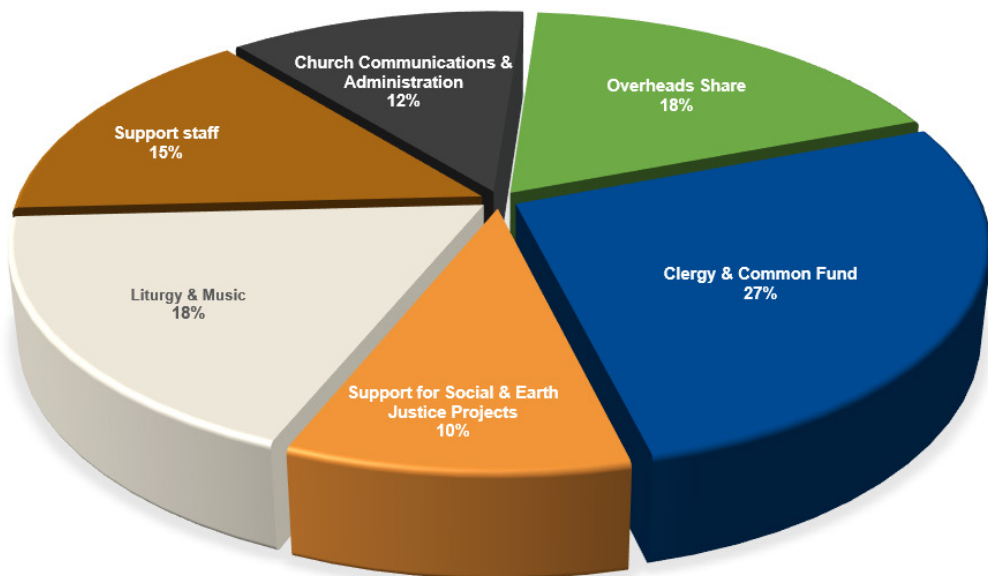
Everything we do during the week is in the name of the church, but core to our life is our Eucharistic community, who gather at the altar on a Sunday. Each time we gather, we affirm that all we have comes from God, so our giving is in response to all we've been given.

## What are our congregation costs?

Out of the total of £1.3m needed annually, the congregation share is £459,911. Not all of this comes from planned giving: we raise funds in other ways including text donations, tap donation boxes, fees from weddings and memorial services, church collection boxes and other miscellaneous income.

This funding is mostly for people: covering the costs of our pastoral assistant, asylum and refugee worker, a proportion of our verger team, administrative costs, security for our outreach projects and clergy stipends. It also helps to ensure that our church building is open for worship and prayer every day, lit, staffed, safe and warm.

## Congregational Costs



## Who deals with the finances at SJP?

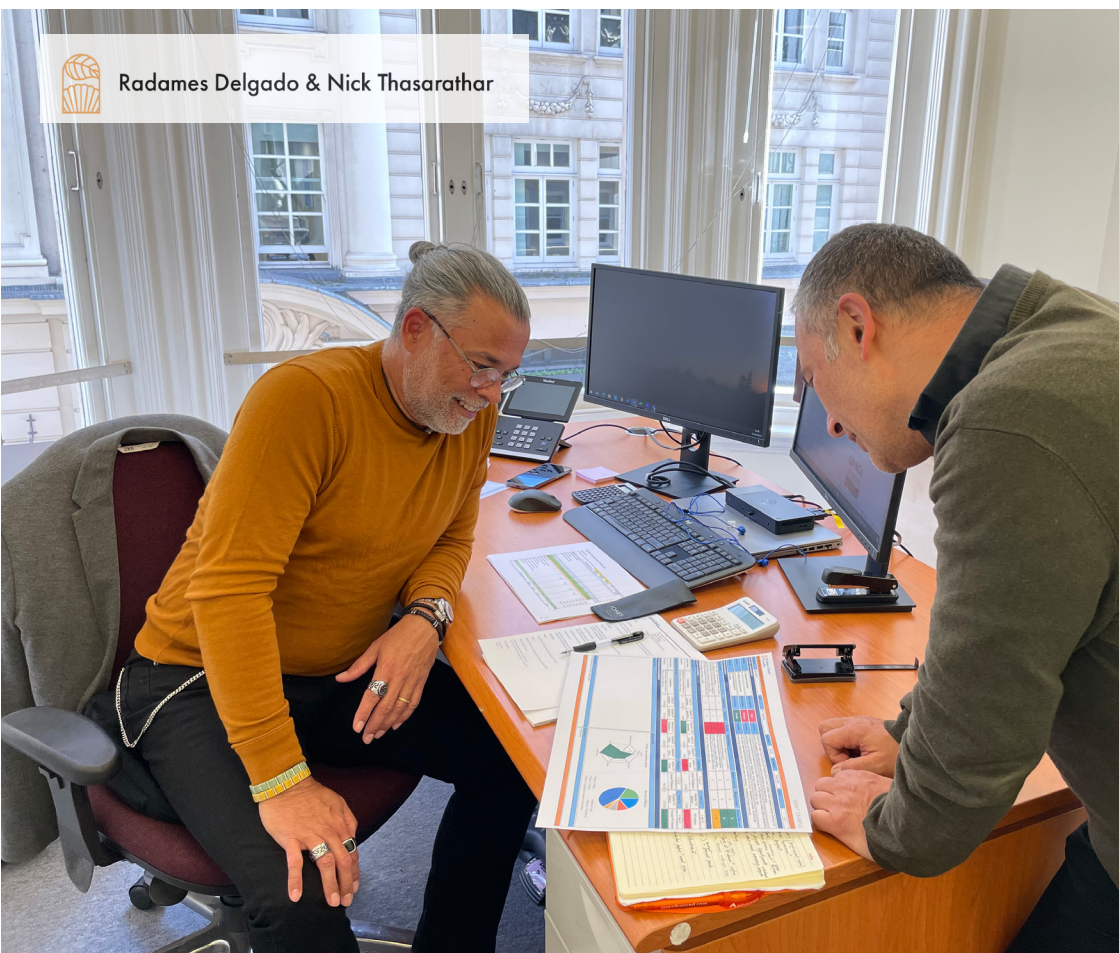
Our new Operations Director Nick Thasarathar works closely with Radames Delgado, our full time Finance Manager and the PCC Honorary Treasurer Ben Mariam. The Giving Team focuses on congregational giving.

The management accounts are produced monthly and are scrutinised by our Senior Management Team: the Rector, the Development Director, the Operations Director, Associate Rector and Creative Director.

Financial reports are given to the PCC quarterly. An independently chaired Audit Committee meets twice a year to advise on risk management, financial management and compliance. The accounts are audited annually by our auditors and reports are submitted to the Charities Commission.



Radames Delgado & Nick Thasarathar





## **How are the budgets planned?**

This year we have moved to a new system of reporting, so that we can see more clearly what income is generated and what costs we have.

There are four categories: Congregation, Operations, Creative and Development.

The Development Director is focussed on raising funds for the Wren Project, but also makes applications to trusts and foundations and to individuals for funding for specific projects.

## **What's happening this year?**

The PCC took the decision in 2021 to invest the surplus that was made in 2021 (because of a licence fee and the Netflix filming opportunity) into a new operating model for 2022 and beyond.

### **The principles behind this are:**

1. To more closely align our income generation with our values as a church.

2. To form a new senior management team to lead this work effectively at the same time as amplifying and deepening the impact of St James's in the wider world.

3. To plan effectively for the upcoming Wren Project works and activity programme.

4. To develop more operational resilience for St James's in an uncertain central London environment.

The PCC investment means that over 24 months (2021 and 2022), St James's budget breaks even, but that in 2022, our within-year budget has a significant deficit which we will work to reduce during the year.

## **How is the money I give used?**

In our new budget arrangements, the congregation is giving to support the life of the worshipping church community, at the same time as contributing to keeping our church, garden and courtyard open and active during the week.





The Revd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease with the  
Right Revd Dr Joanne Grenfell, Bishop of Stepney



## Clergy and Common Fund 27%

27% of Congregational expenditure goes to paying for your clergy, and also making our contribution to the central costs of the Diocese of London through the Common Fund.

St James's chooses to employ a stipendiary Associate Rector and Curate as part of the clergy team. We currently also have two Self Supporting Priests for whom expenses are paid.



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**LONDON**

## Support for Social and Earth Justice Projects 10%

These projects are led by congregation and clergy as part of putting our faith into practice. But there are some support costs, including the employment of part-time staff as food hospitality outreach coordinator, pastoral assistant, asylum and refugee worker, together with advocacy and art commissions for earth and social justice.

We also subscribe to Westminster Citizens, currently involved in the campaigning for a living wage to be paid to workers in social care.



Michael Haslam & Singing Scholars





Luke Wang & Robin Campbell

## Liturgy and Music 18%

St James's has for centuries had a strong tradition of music making. Today we have a professional Director of Music, Organist and now a singing and instrumental scholar programme designed to encourage and empower our Lay Singers and players on Sundays, while providing performance opportunities for the scholars too through the year.

This scheme has enabled us to start a new contemplative Eucharist and prayer on a Tuesday evening also. We are really grateful to one member of the congregation who has agreed to start us off with the funding for this pilot programme. Our open-air participative soul music event Soul at Saint James costs are part covered by St James's and we also pay for communion wafers, candles, flowers, organ maintenance and tuning, and all the other liturgical expenses made visible every time we gather for worship.

## Support staff 15%

Our Verger team keeps our church life running smoothly as does our Parish Administrator, producing service sheets, booking weddings, memorials and baptisms and, for all our church related events and groups, there are a thousand more essential tasks which are done by the whole team.

Our governance is important too so our paid part time PCC Secretary has significant responsibilities to keep us in line with church and legal responsibilities. 15% of the congregational giving supports a proportion of all these support salaries.





## Church Communications and Administration 12%

The costs of service sheets, posters, advertising our church events and services, together with security costs and other administration is 12% of the congregational giving.



Mikey MacKenzie



## Overheads share 18%

18% of the congregation budget is making a contribution to the costs of insurance, heating and lighting, Inland Revenue, and all the other overheads and supplies incurred by a busy site open seven days a week.



## FAQs

### **St James's looks like a rich church in a smart area: why does SJP need income from a gathered congregation?**

This is a good question and one that is asked frequently. The most important answer is that our congregation isn't funding an institution to 'keep it going'.

We are giving back to God what God gave us in because all we have comes from God in the first place. And we want to be a particular kind of church: open, inclusive, creative, active. If we were just open on a Sunday for an hour for people who wanted to come to a church service, this wouldn't cost so much and could be funded more easily.

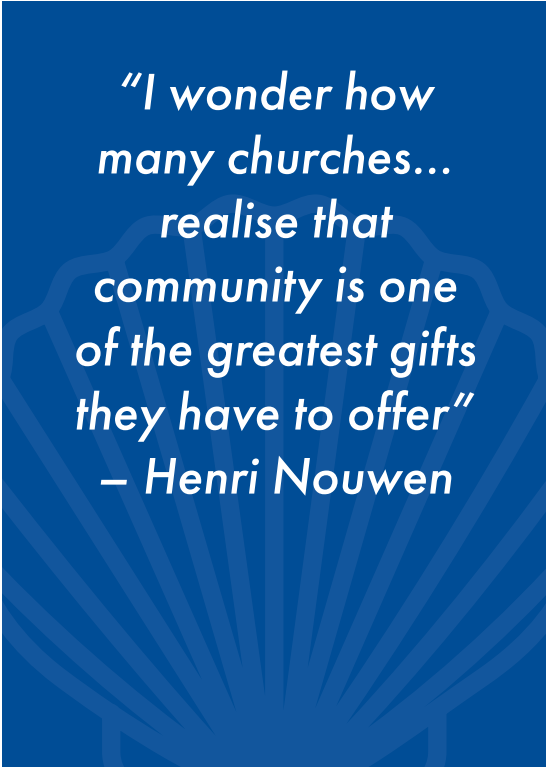
Some visitors assume that because we meet in a historic and beautiful building that the government helps maintain it. In common with most churches, we receive no funding from government. We are asked by the Diocese of London to give more than our costs, to support poorer parishes, given our location and our ability to raise funds in other ways.

Our historic parish has about 1,000

residents, many of whom don't live here permanently, are of other faiths or none. St James's has great relationships with local businesses and neighbours (some of whom provide advice or volunteers for some of our projects) but their own rules often prevent them from offering funding to religious groups or organisations.

**Friends of St James's** is there for people who are not part of the congregation but would like to support our work. Could you encourage your friends and family to join this scheme through the website?

[www.sjp.org.uk/donate/friends-of-st-james](http://www.sjp.org.uk/donate/friends-of-st-james)



***"I wonder how  
many churches...  
realise that  
community is one  
of the greatest gifts  
they have to offer"  
– Henri Nouwen***

## **The figures in this leaflet look very big: what if I can't give very much?**

Every single pound pledged each month is precious. It is not a decision taken lightly to pledge money to the church, and if you are giving £1 a month or £500 a month, or anything in between, every single pledge is a sign of our common life, and the small amounts are just as important as the large ones. It's the principle of giving, that everyone gives even a small amount, that is the key to our character as a church.

## **The cost of living is putting me under pressure: what if I have to reduce what I give?**

St James's gathered congregation on a Sunday is a group of people who have a broad range of financial circumstances, and it's important that everyone can find a place to belong here. Some are receiving income from a pension, others are earning salaries. Some are going through homelessness or are vulnerably housed, some are going through the asylum system, some receive income through state benefits, some are supporting dependents in the UK or overseas.

The invitation to give is an

*Our approach is based in the Scriptures where we read that 'God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them'. This includes you.*

open-hearted one and the PCC fully recognises that each individual will make adjustments as life circumstances change.

The Church of England guidance is perhaps 5% of your income could be given to the church and another 5% given to other charities or causes you want to support. But the church council at St James's knows that many people are under pressure this year and so all our conversations about finance are in the wider and deeper context that our giving is of time, energy, love and skill just as much as it is of our money.

You are welcome here, however much you are able to give and there is no pressure to be anything other than yourself.

## Can I give for specific projects?

Yes of course: the PCC will honour any specific request or restrictions on the funds contributed to St James's. At the same time, it's so helpful to be able to plan more generally with unrestricted funds, so that, for example, FEAST, our meal for people going through homelessness, is fully supported by our cleaners, security guards, heating and lighting, as much as it is by our food hospitality coordinator or verger team or volunteers.

Similarly, the refurbishment of the basement rooms in order for us to start WARDROBE was paid for from unrestricted funds. Unrestricted funds are most helpful for the running of the whole church and for making sure we plan and budget properly.



The International Group





The Triumph of Delights Festival

## What sort of amount could I give?

£6 per month provides a person going through homelessness with a 3-course meal

£95 per month gives support to our music costs for one Sunday Eucharist

£180 per month supports our Caravan drop-in listening service for 2 hours

£500 per month helps give practical support to people going through the asylum system, with no recourse to public funds

## How do I make this happen?

The easiest way to do this is through the website **[www.sjp.org.uk](http://www.sjp.org.uk)**

On the homepage, click on Support Us and then select Congregational Giving or go to **[sjp.org.uk/giving/](http://sjp.org.uk/giving/)**

If you are able to set up a monthly gift, of whatever amount, this is the best way to help St James's fulfil its mission and increase our impact in the community.

If you do set up a regular gift or if you have any queries or comments, please contact Ayla Lepine, Associate Rector ([associaterector@sjp.org.uk](mailto:associaterector@sjp.org.uk)) or Paull Hammond-Davies, Head of Individual Giving ([individual.giving@sjp.org.uk](mailto:individual.giving@sjp.org.uk)).

Whatever amount you are able to give, thank you.

“Even a seemingly small act of generosity can grow into something far beyond what we could ever ask or imagine (Eph. 3:20) — the creation of a community of love in this world, and beyond this world, because wherever love grows, it is stronger than death (1 Cor. 13:8). So when we give ourselves to planting and nurturing love here on earth, our efforts will reach out beyond our own chronological existence. Indeed, if we raise funds for the creation of a community of love, we are helping God build the kingdom. We are doing exactly what we are supposed to do as Christians. Paul is clear about this: ‘Make love your aim’ (1 Cor. 14:1).”

*Henri Nouwen, The Spirituality of Fundraising*

