

Giving Review 2024

"Give careful thought to your ways."
Haggai 1.5

HOLY TRINITY
JESMOND



ONCE A YEAR AT HOLY TRINITY we are all invited to reflect on our financial giving to church. The vast majority of our income for all we do comes from your prayerful, generous, and regular giving. Thank you! We are so grateful to you for taking seriously the commitment to financial giving as part of discipleship.

The prophet Haggai reminds God's people to give thoughtfully and generously when he says "give careful thought to your ways". As a PCC we apply this principle to our annual budgets and how we respond to the ongoing challenges of keeping our buildings and ministry fit for purpose. Keeping financially healthy as a church is really important, so we can play the part God has for us in our community, but also support the wider work of the diocese. If we wish to maintain current staffing levels, pay the heating bills and keep Holy Trinity in good health with all our activities and mission opportunities, we will need to increase our income by 5%.

We continue to have two building projects: the ongoing re-pointing of the church building and roof repairs on the side aisles. We have put aside substantial funding to address these needs but it will mean that there will be less cash available for other things.

GENEROSITY

In Matthew 6.21 Jesus says '*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*'. He's talking about how our money, possessions and life choices fit into the Kingdom of God. He challenges us to prioritise God foremost, to walk in obedience and generosity and because of that, see the Kingdom of Heaven breaking into our world.

Being a disciple of Jesus means living in ways that put God first and allow His kingdom values to permeate our whole lives: home, work, relationships, decisions and finances. It means surrendering our time, money and resources to the creator God, trusting that the Author of Life knows what is best and most fulfilling for us.

And this is radical – especially today when money is tight and uncertainty is all around us. But by doing this we affirm we are following Jesus wholeheartedly and resisting a culture where money is allowed to set the agenda. The Church is called to believe and trust that Jesus is at the heart of life, at the centre of our priorities and the way we order our lives.

At Holy Trinity we try to be shaped by these principles in the way we approach money and giving:

- We seek to be generous with all we have and in all we do as we respond to God's generosity to us and express our worship to him: 'Everything comes from you; all we're doing is giving back what we've been given from your generous hand.' (1 Chronicles 29.14 The Message).
- We do not want to allow money to dominate our worship: we do not pass around a collection plate in services, treating visitors as welcome guests; only talking about giving once a year (like this), rather than fundraising all year round.
- We encourage generous, prayerful, principled giving: giving to God what is 'right' rather than what is 'left' over. In 1 Corinthians 16:2 Paul asks people to 'set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income'.

The Bible suggests we give a proportion of our income: tithe (giving 10%). We never tell anyone how much they should give and no one should feel pressurised to give more than they are able. But we do ask you to think about giving what is 'right' not what is 'left' and to see it as one of the ways we put Jesus at the centre, living in obedience and generosity.

Healthy finances are a sign of a healthy church - we want to see Holy Trinity flourish in so many ways – as disciples, as family, in our missional engagement with our parish and wider communities, in our social and environmental responsibilities. Your giving makes that possible.

A WORD FROM THE TREASURER

John Matthews says:

“ We depend on church members for 90% of our income. We are grateful that in a year of cost of living increases, donations from church members increased by 2% but overall expenditure increased by 12%. This was largely to do running costs for the church and church hall which went up by 22% due to increased maintenance and increased electricity costs.

£4000 was spent on the most urgent repairs but the full pointing work that was budgeted for in 2023 was not carried out because of adverse weather and limited contractor availability. We benefitted from early Gift Aid claims of £36000 and as a result of this we were able to transfer £28000 into the fabric fund for expected expenses in the coming year. Due to the postponed pointing work we ended the year with a £12815 surplus.

The most significant financial challenge we face in the coming year is the cost of the outstanding maintenance and repair work which amounts to an estimated £48500. We will also be paying more for our gas and electricity. ”

“ Due to good stewardship over recent years, we have sufficient reserves, but we will need to use £44000 of these reserves to cover our expected expenditure.

We have agreed a budget that, excluding the costs of repairs to the church, is 4% lower than last year. Despite this reduction in our costs the building maintenance and repair work means that we are asking that those who can to increase their regular giving by an average of 5% in 2024. ”

John Matthews

YOUR RESPONSE:

- 1) PLEASE PRAY** first and foremost! Ask God for help in deciding what you give. Even a small increase makes a huge difference.
- 2) PLEASE THINK** about the principles behind your giving. This pack has more information about how we budget and spend the money that is so generously given.
- 3) PLEASE REPLY** to John Matthews using the enclosed **GIVING RESPONSE FORM**. Please complete to indicate your general giving to Holy Trinity. This is so helpful to us in budgeting for the year. Please return to John (totally confidentially) using the addressed envelope for ease of reply. There is also a **STANDING ORDER FORM for sending to your bank** if required) or If you prefer you can scan the **QR CODE** below.

For more information please contact

JOHN MATTHEWS

(Treasurer) htjtreasurer@gmail.com

This brochure is also available at
<https://ht.church/giving>



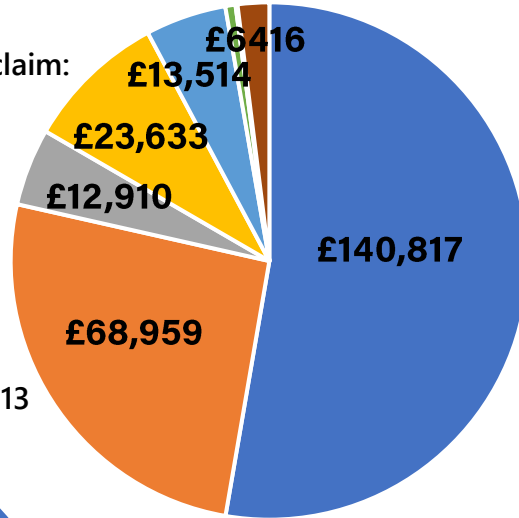
HOLY TRINITY JESMOND FINANCIAL INFORMATION 2023



These charts offer a guide to income and expenditure in 2023 – they are a simplified version of general income and expenditure for illustrative purposes. The full 2023 Accounts provide the whole story and are available on request.

INCOME IN 2023: £267,128
(excluding additional Gift Aid claim: £233,835)

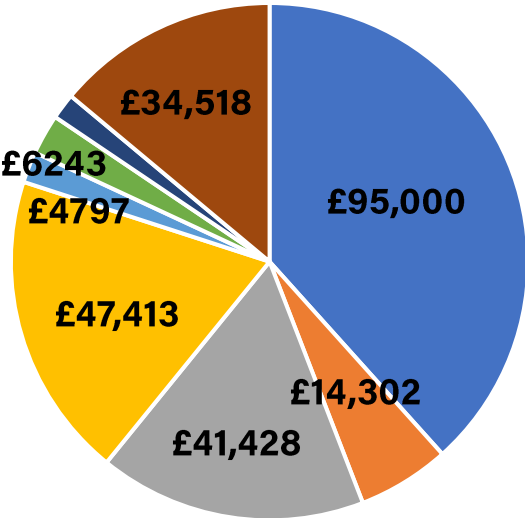
- Regular Giving
- Gift Aid
- Restricted Giving
- Restricted Giving for Salaries
- Church Hall Hire
- Grant for Repairs
- Other Income



EXPENDITURE IN 2023: £254,513

Parish Share is our contribution towards the overall mission and ministry of Newcastle Diocese, including clergy stipends, pensions, housing and training.

Restricted Giving refers to money given for specific purposes designated by the giver, rather than PCC, therefore it's use is 'restricted'.



- Parish Share
- Mission Giving
- Staffing
- Running Costs
- Administration
- Ministry Costs
- Building Repairs
- Other Expenditure and transfers

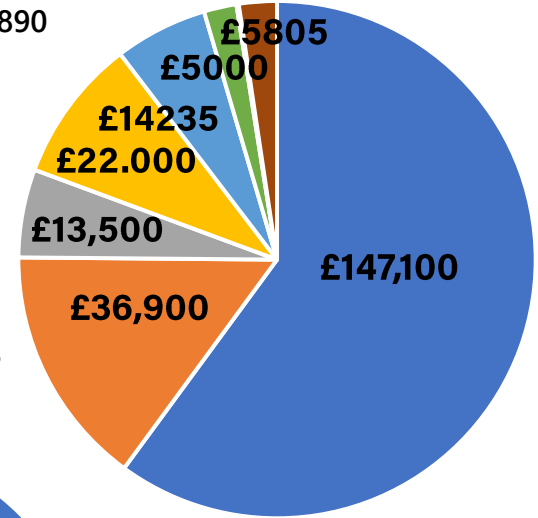
HOLY TRINITY JESMOND BUDGET 2024



These charts display our projected expenditure and required income for 2024 with our best guesses at inflation and rise in cost of living..

INCOME NEEDED 2024: £244,890

- Regular Giving
- Gift Aid
- Restricted Giving
- Restricted Giving for Salaries
- Church Hall Hire
- Grant for Repairs
- Other Income

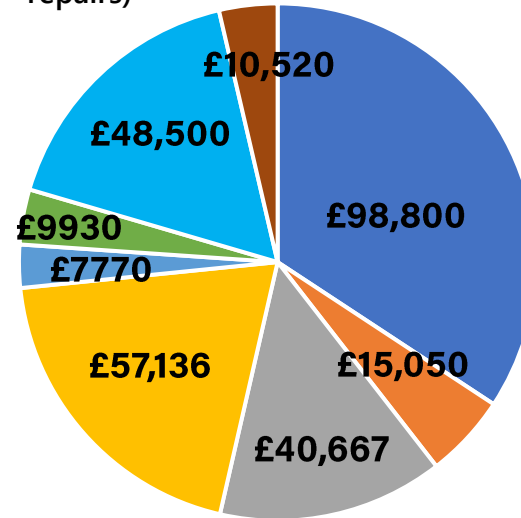


EXPENDITURE 2024: £288,373
(£239,873 excluding major repairs)

Parish Share is our contribution towards the overall mission and ministry of Newcastle Diocese, including clergy stipends, pensions, housing and training.

Restricted Giving refers to money given for specific purposes designated by the giver, rather than PCC.

Buildings Maintenance costs are significantly higher because of repointing and roof repairs. We will use reserves to address some of these costs.



- Parish Share
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- Staffing
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- Other Expenditure and transfers