

HEMEL WEST CATHOLIC PARISH
Ss Mary and Joseph, Boxmoor
and St Mark, Hollybush Lane



WORSHIP



BELONGING & PARTICIPATION



GROWING IN FAITH



SERVING

Week Two

OUR PARISH FINANCES

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

1 Peter 4:10

Dear Parishioners

Last week I introduced our Planned Giving Campaign by highlighting WORSHIP, BELONGING GROWING in faith and SERVING God and one another in the life of our community of faith. One way of thinking and praying about your commitment is to think of you TIME, TALENTS and TREASURE. Our campaign is not solely to do with giving money.

Your skills and knowledge are also invaluable for building community and a sense of belonging as well as for renovating and maintaining our buildings.

So much has been done in the past by parishioners. In this leaflet you can read further about what has been accomplished through your generosity, skills, expertise and your fundraising efforts over recent decades.

You will also see details of the finances of our Parish. I shall ask Phil Gonzalez on behalf of the Parish Finance Committee to summarise in a brief talk at Mass the present state of our accounts which I must say at the outset are reasonably healthy.

Thank you once more for your participation in our Planned Giving Campaign and for taking these matters to heart.

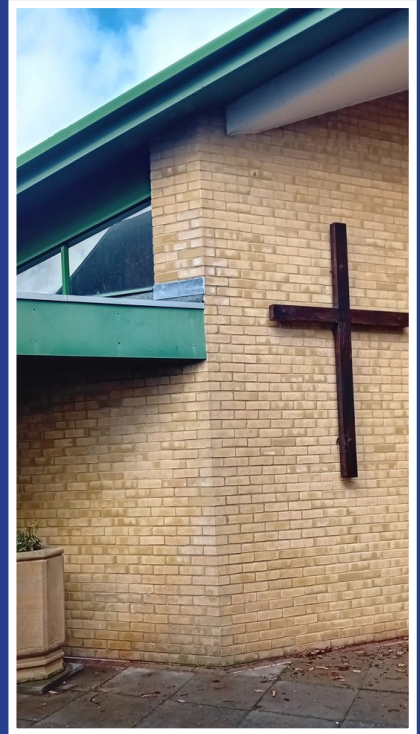
Yours sincerely, in Christ the Lord,

Fr David & Your Parish Finance Committee

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR GENEROSITY ENABLED US TO ...

- build St Mark's Church in 2000
- build the Parish Centre and Parish Office in 2003
- replace the Presbytery in 2010 and
- add two maisonettes for Retired Clergy in 2011
- install new AV systems with live-streaming for both churches in 2025

All of the above projects were funded from reserves, low-cost loans from the Diocese and fundraising activities.



Our Parish has a rich history as the spiritual centre in the lives of many.

To maintain the beauty and heart of our parish, here are some considerations which it is helpful to be aware of...

- Day-to-day running costs
- Building costs, repairs and maintenance
- Holding Reserves

As Stewards responsible for the gifts received from God, we can come together to help look after our beautiful churches and buildings and pass them on to future generations so that they can enjoy and benefit from them.

TOTAL OPERATIONAL INCOME			TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE		
Standing Orders	£53,700	48%	Parish Ministry	£67,900	27%
Envelopes & Loose Plate	£25,600	3%	Diocese Contribution	£32,700	13%
Gift Aid	£13,500	9%	Donations	£7,300	3%
Contactless	£6,800	5%	Fixed Assets	£71,700	29%
Property Income	£69,800	5%	Parish Activities	£5,000	2%
Donations	£7,200	8%	Property	£58,000	24%
Other income	£37,300	1%	Admin & Other	£5,300	2%
Total	£213,900		Total	£248,600	
(£) Savings 2024:	-£34,700		(%) Savings Rate 2024:	-14%	

Why maintenance of our parish property matters...

For many of us, maintenance might sound dull and a bit boring: so why do we bother? Apart from keeping our churches safe, neat and tidy in appearance there are also other important reasons that not only make church maintenance worthwhile, but also excellent value for money.

Through small **regular** investments in maintenance we are able to conserve what has been passed into our guardianship. We accept that we cannot stop decay, only slow it down, but we are able to minimise the risk of extensive high-cost repairs through regular maintenance. For example, the regular cleaning of gutters and our drains is much cheaper than having to replace or repair roofing following years of neglect.

Well-looked-after churches means we don't have to worry about dampness or water dripping through the roof during Mass. Regular inspections of our churches also help us safeguard you and visitors.

Our churches are beautiful and enrich our worship. We look after the churches and our other properties not only for us, but for our children, and their children.

Over the coming 5 years we are anticipating that we will need to spend at least **£200,000** on what we call Planned Maintenance. This work includes:

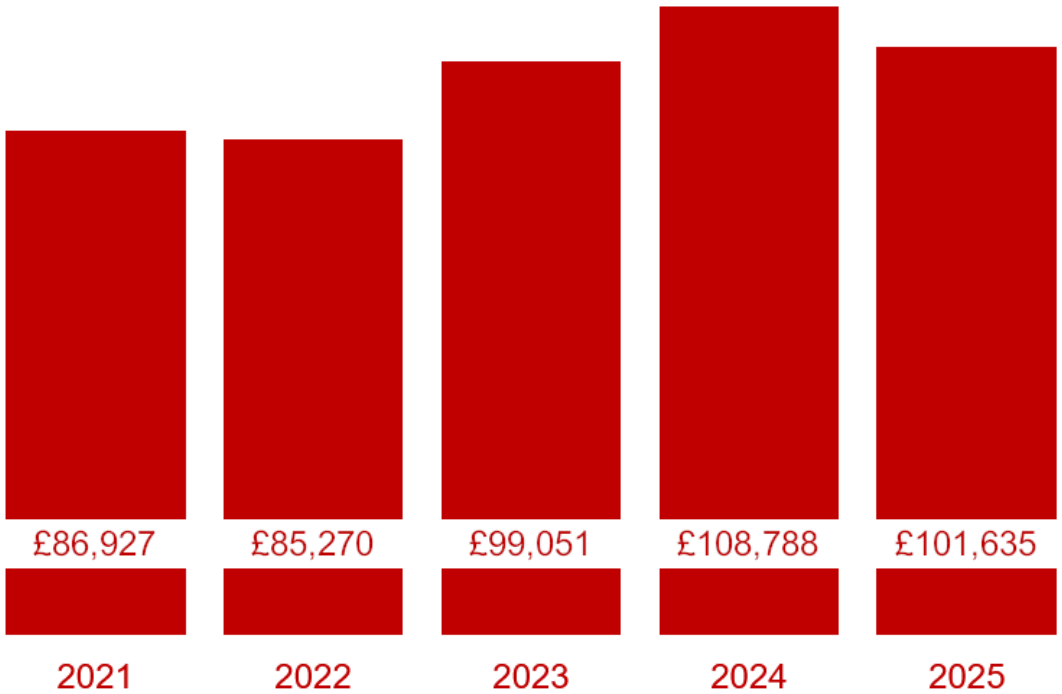
- **Replacing two gas boilers : £30,000**
- **Roof cleaning and gutter repairs : £70,000**
- **Refurbish of lower windows and replace dormer windows in SMSJ Church: £50,000**
- **Redecorating of our churches - external and internal - £50,000**

"... Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood." Acts 20:28.



Our Offertory Income: How we resource our church

Our History of Giving



**DID YOU
KNOW...**

If everyone GiftAided their donations we would, at no cost to you, raise up to £15,000 extra per year!

Our Offertory Income in Detail

	Contactless	Envelope	Online & SOs	Gift Aid	Plate	Total
2021	£0	£1,575	£58,549	£17,136	£9,667	£86,927
2022	£691	£415	£49,482	£14,428	£20,254	£85,270
2023	£1,950	£0	£53,760	£17,074	£26,267	£99,051
2024	£5,084	£0	£55,300	£21,725	£26,679	£108,788
2025	£6,871	£0	£55,154	£13,546	£26,064	£101,635

GiftAid is easy to do, it doesn't cost you a penny and helps the parish even further!

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- *Only 32% of donations were GiftAided in 2024 & 2025.*
- *Gift Aid gave us an extra £13,500 at no cost other than you signing up and the Parish and Diocese claiming the money from the Government.*
- *If you pay UK income tax, you are able to sign up to GiftAid.*
- *GiftAid allows us to receive an extra 25p for every £1 you donate!*

Giving efficiently: Why Standing Orders are so helpful

- In 2025, 166 out of 450 parishioners, or 37%, contributed by monthly Standing Order.
- Improves the regularity and consistency of church income.
- Saves the parish time and money spent counting and banking cash loose plate donations.
- Helps us to budget and manage our finances more effectively, and bank statements provide an independent audit trail for the Inland Revenue.

Please take this leaflet away with you

***If you have any questions, please ask a volunteer after
Mass or contact:***

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***To stay informed or donate to our parish online,
please visit: [https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/
hemelhempsteadwest/](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/)***

WRCDT – Charity Number 233699

