

Dear fellow parishioners of Guardian Angels Church

We need your help!

Our parish relies on the generous support of its parish family to be able to continue its ministry and its mission. We do not receive funding from outside sources. Rather, we must contribute monthly to the central functioning of the Diocese of Westminster.

OUR SITUATION

We do need, at this time of significant cost inflation and spiralling energy costs, to look carefully at the financial situation of the parish.

As you can see from the spreadsheet table below, in 2022 it cost about £1,900 per week on average to run the parish, and our average overall weekly income was about £1,700 (of which, approx. £900 in weekly offertory). Our bank balance, after the difficulties of the Covid period, currently falls short of covering costs without coming close to providing us with a safety backup/margin.

How we operated in 2022: (figures rounded to nearest 100)

Income		Expenditure	
Offertory (Loose Plate & Contactless)	£11,200	Parish Ministry*	£22,800
Offertory (Envelopes)	£6,000	Liturgical expenses	£4,000
Offertory (Standing Orders & Online Donations)	£31,700	Gas, electricity and water	£15,100
Tax recovered with Gift Aid	£12,300	Contribution to the Diocese	£11,900
Parish activities, Catechetics, donations & offerings	£8,400	Parish activities, catechetics, grants & office	£5,000
Parish centre revenue	£6,300	Property running costs including insurance	£26,500
Specific donations (inc building fund £10,600)	£12,200	Building repairs & projects	£12,200
Repository, paper & candles	£2,900	Repository, paper & candles	£1,600
Total:	£91,000	Total:	£99,100
(£) Surplus 2022	-£8,100	(%) Surplus 2022	-8.9%

*includes clergy stipend, non-clergy salaries & supply priests

REPAIR WORKS AND PROJECTS

Apart from the ordinary running expenses, there are urgent repairs and other projects for which the parish needs your support:

- 1) Looking to the structure / fabric of our Church: we need to do remedial work on the **Tower**, which has been colonised by pigeons, and from which there has been a leak in recent years after heavy rain. Who knows, we may even be able to ring the church bell again!
- 2) In the **parish centre**, we would like to have the hall floor sanded and sealed (for which we received a quotation for £6000 in 2020), the entrance and the kitchen refurbished and turn the atrium and the adjacent room into a space that may be used by parish groups or hired out to external groups, maybe even create a coffee/tea hub.
- 3) We would like to install **lift access for the disabled and less abled** by the old west entrance to the church and in the parish centre. This is a big project that will require a significant amount of money. It is however extremely important to many of us, and some parishioners have already started donating money towards it.
- 4) We should really consider a **new electrical system** and **new lighting** for the church.

HOW TO DONATE

Thank you to our parishioners who have given so generously to Guardian Angels...many of you have given much over many years. Even so, further support is needed.

We ask you, fellow members of our parish family, to reflect prayerfully on whether you could increase the amount you donate. Each of us can look realistically at their financial situation and give according to their means. Cardinal Hume once suggested that those in employment could think of giving the first hour of their pay each week to God.

There are currently 42 parishioners who are donating by monthly standing order. If, for example, each one increased their standing order by only £10 per month, that would bring in an extra £420 per month, which could make a big difference for the parish. If giving an extra £10 per month to the parish may be something that you could do without it significantly impacting your financial situation, and if several people were to do the same, you can easily see how this would improve the parish finances quite considerably. And this is just with an extra £10. If those who can, give more, the improvement could be even more significant!

There are various ways to contribute to the upkeep and running expenses of the parish or, more specifically, to one of the projects/works listed above.

* by **bank transfer or standing order to WRCDT Mile End, 40-05-20, 61308378**. Please add your Surname and First Name as a reference and gift aid it if you are a UK tax payer. This is the most efficient way for you to support our parish, as it gives us a monthly income we can rely on. You can set this up yourself via the Parish Donation Page or use the standing order form attached and return to the parish office.

* Using the **Dona contactless machine** in the church foyer (ask a steward if you need help) – this machine allows you to Gift Aid your donation; (the Dona may also be used to purchase items from the church shop, i.e., repository)

* Scanning **QR code** at the bottom of this letter which links to the parish donation page;

* Or by using **Planned Giving envelopes**.

Bequests, Will and Legacies are other means of contribution to the parish. For more information, please speak to Fr John.

If you are a taxpayer, please be sure to sign up for Gift Aid, if you are eligible. This enables the parish to increase the value of your donation by 25% AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU- 25p back for every £1!

Give Generously of your time!

Give Generously also of your time! There are things that the parish could do, or could do better, if more of us would volunteer in the parish. Please speak to Fr John or one of the stewards after mass.

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received” (1 Peter 4:10).

If you would like more information, please contact us at mileend@rcdow.org.uk.

May God bestow on us his Holy Spirit and help us grow in faith, especially during this time of Lent.

Yours sincerely

Fr John and the members of the Parish Finance Committee



SCAN THIS CODE TO GO TO PARISH DONATION PAGE