



ST LEONARD'S
STEWARDSHIP
2023

'Each one must give as they have decided in
their heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver'.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Our Story

Our lives are a gift from God and as a community of faith we have so much to give thanks for.

At a time when many Church of England churches are declining in number and are struggling to sustain their ministry, St Leonard's has been reversing the trend!



Our average Sunday attendance is higher than it has been for many years, and we are flourishing in our work with children, young people, seniors, and families.

Our congregations are a wonderful reflection of the diversity of our Parish in age, ethnicity, and social demographic.





We are a warm and welcoming church which is richly blessed by the wide variety of contributions people make to enable us to be all that we are.

Above all, it is a joy to witness God's grace at work among us as people come to faith, grow in their faith, and seek to share their faith through acts of love and justice.

**Thank you for being a
part of this exciting story!**



As we look forward to the future we are nevertheless facing some real financial challenges. Our anticipated income for 2024 falls significantly short of our expected outgoings and we need to be working together to address this.

The charts below show our anticipated position at the end of 2023.

Our

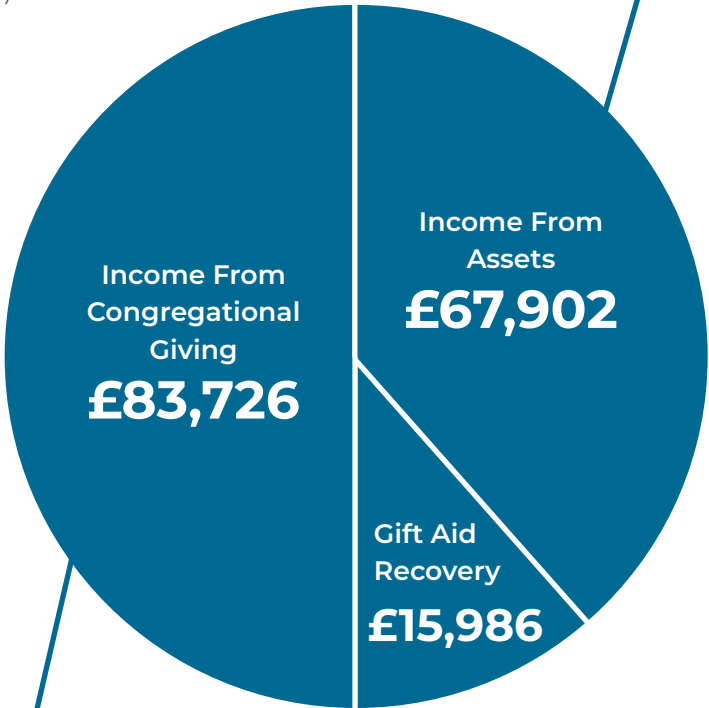
Income

TOTAL INCOME

£167,614

(2023)

Income from Assets	
£24,200	Aldington Road
£23,125	Church Hall
£15,577	Telecom Mast Rental
£5,000	Church Hire



Income from Congregational Giving		
£63,226	£12,000	£8,500
Standing Orders (79 in total)	Open Plate & GA Envelopes	Card Readers

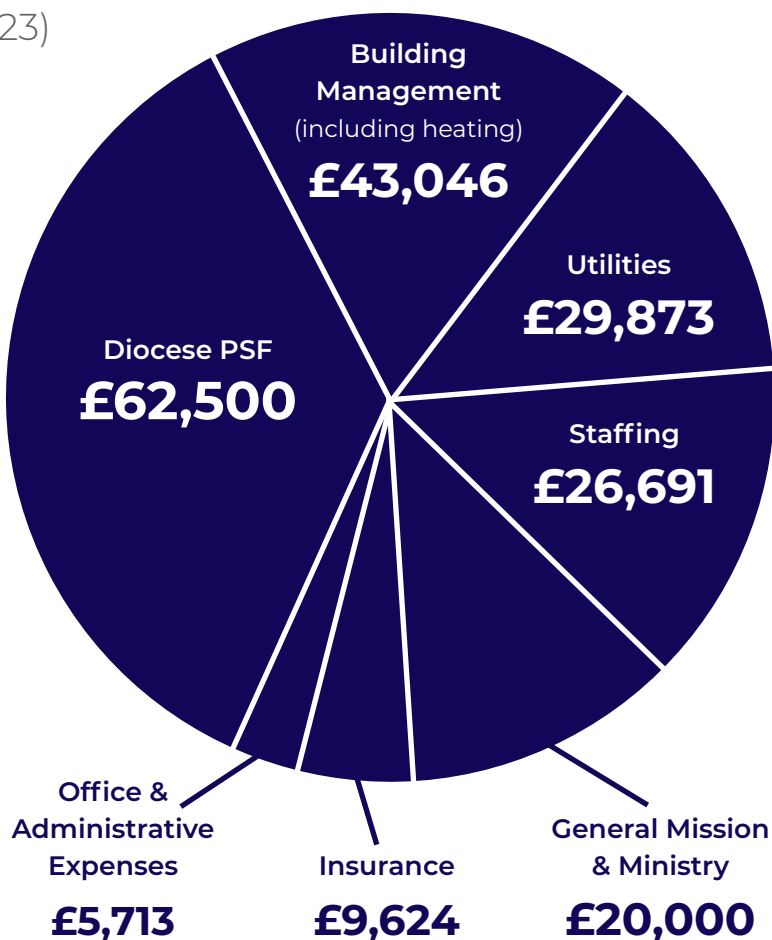
Our

Expenditure

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

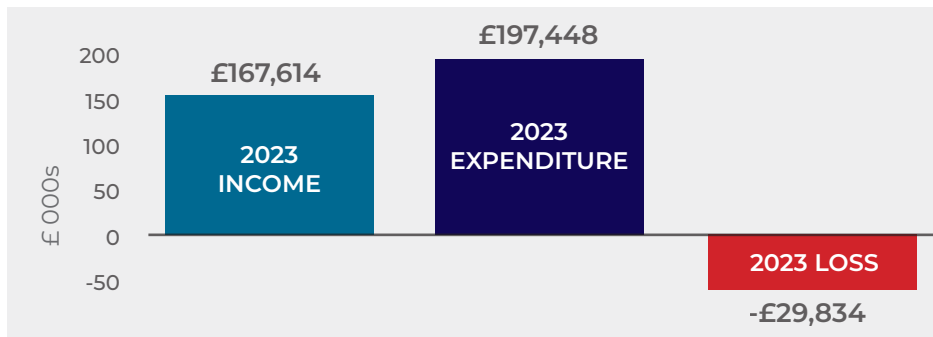
£197,448

(2023)



Our Challenges

As a result of these income and expenditure figures, we are therefore anticipating we will make a loss of £30,000 in 2023, although the installation of a new heating system in the church hall accounts for this loss against the 2023 budget.



In addition to this, some other challenges we face include:

1 Parish Support Fund (PSF)

In 2023 we reduced our PSF contribution to the Diocese of Southwark by £20K (from £82.5K - £62.5K), the lowest it has been for a decade. We agreed the reduction with our Archdeacon as a temporary measure, as we navigated:

- A huge uplift in our utility bills.
- A loss of income from our house in Aldrington Road during a tenancy vacancy and the cost of a necessary refurbishment.
- The cost of installing a new heating system into the church hall.

We were grateful to the Diocese for accepting this PSF reduction, but it nevertheless meant we were no longer covering the amount the Diocese sets for each Parish (£86.5K). This fund pays for the churches

of the Diocese of Southwark to have priests evenly distributed across the Diocese, train curates and support the central Diocesan services.

In 2024 the PCC has committed to increasing our PSF payment to £70K as a first step toward achieving the full cost set by the Diocese.

2 The Church Hall – Upper Floors

On 15th September 2023, the upper floors of our Church hall returned to us. This is excellent news as there is a 3-bed flat and a spacious meeting room on the 1st and 2nd floors which will provide a much needed source of income (£25-30K pa). However, the condition of both spaces is poor and extensive refurbishment is needed before they can begin to generate income. The PCC has engaged a contractor to carry out the works and has allocated reserve funds to cover the expense. We are delighted to have the savings to do this, but anticipate that this project will drain all available reserves (£100K).

3 Church Hall Ground Floor – The Spires

The Spires will continue to lease the ground floor hall until September 2024, but they have a 3-month break clause within their lease, and therefore could leave sooner. Once they do, we shall face a loss of income (£17.5K pa) from the ground floor hall until we have extensively refurbished it. The good news is that (unlike the upper floors) the ground floor should attract outside funding, as it will provide a valuable community space for Streatham. The challenge we face is raising the grant funds and managing the project.

4 Organ Refurbishment

In 2018 we were advised that our beautiful Walker organ was nearing the time for a refurbishment. Although this is not a pressing or immediate issue we are now entering 'borrowed time' and need to be preparing for the cost of an organ refurbishment. This is likely to cost around £40K.

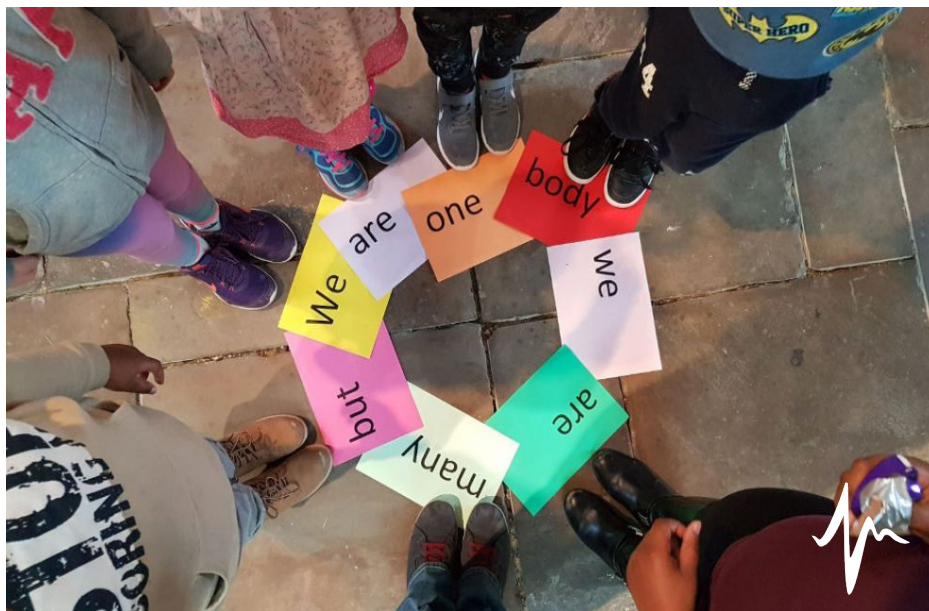
Looking Ahead

Despite the challenges we are facing financially, the PCC is confident that it is a short term issue. Once we have a church hall, a flat and a meeting room generating rental income, we will be in a much stronger position (eg estimated income £75K+ pa).

However, in the short term we do need to work together to close the gap that exists between income, expenditure, and future anticipated costs.

We estimate an urgent need to increase our income for 2024 by £25,000.

If we fail to do this, the PCC will have to look closely at current expenditure and cuts will have to be made that will affect our capacity to sustain our current mission and ministry commitments.



How can I Help

So what can we do to play our part in the continued growth of St Leonard's church?

Well our help can come in three ways – all of which are vitally important:

- We can give **financially**.
- We can give **our time and talents**.
- We can **pray**.

FINANCIALLY

1 Start a Standing Order to St Leonard's

This method of giving is by far the most helpful for us as it enables the PCC to plan and budget. It also enables us to regularly apply for Gift Aid on gifts without having to process individual paper slips, yellow envelopes or count cash after services.

Most importantly it is your way of saying 'I am supporting St Leonard's, whether I managed to get to church on Sunday or not!'

- We currently have **79** standing orders in place.
- Gifts currently range from **£2 - £500 pcm**.
- The average weekly gift is **£15.74**.

If you have not yet arranged a standing order to St Leonard's we encourage you to do so.

10 new standing orders of £60 pcm (along with Gift Aid) would mean St Leonards receives an extra £10K next year!

2 Reviewing your Standing Order

If you have been giving to St Leonard's by standing order for many years you may not have reviewed your gift since it was set up. Sadly, due to personal circumstances, a number of our regular givers have reduced their gift in the past year, and this has had an impact on the bottom line. Not only this, but several generous supporters have died or moved away, and their donations came to an end.

Can you help to close the gap by increasing your gift?

If every current standing order was increased by 10% (along with Gift Aid) we could be halfway to our target!

3 'One off' Gifts

You may not be in a position to start a regular standing order, or review an existing one, but you may be able to make a 'one off donation' to help towards the increased costs of the coming year.

If you could, we would be delighted!

If we received 10 gifts of £500 we would reach 20% of our target!

4 Leave a Legacy

St Leonard's has benefitted enormously in recent years from the gifts of a Legacy. Legacies have ranged from £1,000 to £125K and each one has been used to enable St Leonard's to both improve our facilities and develop our ministry.

Please consider St Leonard's in your Will and your legacy will live on by blessing the community of faith that was a blessing to you!

TIME & TALENT

St Leonard's is a remarkable community which has consistently enjoyed the benefit of many wonderful people giving of their time and talents to enable our work to flourish.

We save £££'s every year because of people's generosity in ways other than financial giving. Volunteering time and expertise benefits the community greatly and we are always delighted with offers of help, no matter how small.

Perhaps you have some time to give in an area that might help with the current challenges we are facing?

**'Everything comes from you, O Lord,
and of your own have we given you.'**

1 Chronicles 29: 14

PRAYER

And finally, we need to pray! We have achieved remarkable things over the past 5 years and by God's grace the funds we needed have been provided at each step. Please pray that God will help us to continue to fulfil his purposes at St Leonard's in the year to come.

**Thank you for being a part
of our community of faith,
hope, and love in Streatham.**

As we look to the future, let's not forget that we do so trusting that the grace of God at work in, through, and around us, can do more than we can ever imagine!



Get In Touch



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