



**“All things come from You,
and of Your own do we give you”**



Romsey Abbey with St. Swithun's Crampmoor



**Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure,
pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be
put in your lap; for the measure you give will be the
measure you get back. *Luke 6 v38***

Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the whole PCC and ministry team I want to say a huge THANK YOU for your generous support during the last year. Thanks to your generosity in terms of volunteer time as well as monetary generosity the Abbey's financial position is stable. However we face a financially challenging 2025. Most years the PCC budgets to break-even, but in 2025 we have set a deficit budget because of rising costs, and to support our expanding ministry, including new youth work. Included in this booklet is a summary of our parish finances with information about regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme, as well as gifts in wills.



We are progressing our plans to improve the facilities in the Abbey and Church Rooms. We provide details of an initial capital project organised as part of our environmental stewardship: to start replacing our old expensive Abbey downlights with modern LEDs that are far cheaper to run and will also reduce our carbon footprint. We can double the value of your gifts towards this through a matching 'Give to Go Green' grant from the national Church (see p6). More information about the different ways you can support our mission and ministry will be shared throughout our campaign. Please take a few minutes to read through this leaflet and prayerfully consider your response.

Thank you for the many ways in which you continue to live and give generously. May we all discover the joy of living in response to God's generosity that is a church, *"Living, Loving and Serving"* in all that we are and do.

Revd Canon Thomas Wharton

Giving regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme



Most of our regular worshippers use the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) organized for Church of England churches. This uses a bank direct debit, very similar to paying your monthly utility, council tax or mortgage/rent

bills. If you are an income tax payer you can use Gift Aid to increase the value of your gift by 25% by completing a Gift Aid declaration. Most donors pay monthly, others quarterly or annually. Unlike utility bills YOU are in complete control of how much you pay. The typical Romsey donor gives the PCC nearly £100 every month.

The PGS form instructs PGS to collect the gift from your bank, asks HMRC to refund any Gift Aid tax due, and pays it directly into the PCC's bank account. You can change your PGS gifts at any time (up or down) as your financial circumstances and family commitments change; simply contact PGS directly with your new instructions. Quite a few Romsey members choose to allow PGS to automatically increase their gift once a year by RPI inflation.

Within the parish, only the Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary know how much you give – not even the clergy know! Using PGS saves our parish finance volunteers lots of time and expense, and improves the PCC's cashflow.

God will accept your gift on the basis of what you have to give, not what you haven't.

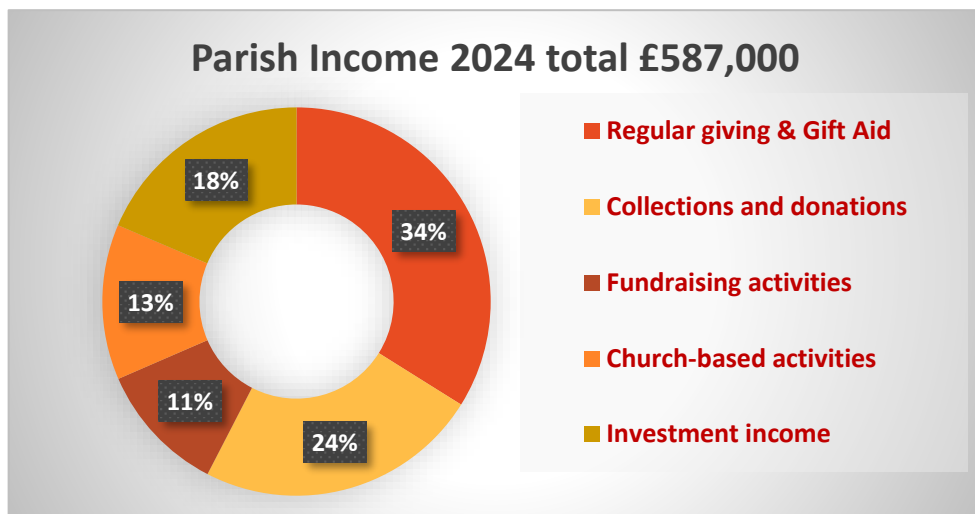
2 Corinthians 8.12

Full details about the PGS can be found in the brochures available in church, or on their website www.parishgiving.org.uk tel: 0333 002 1271 or from our PGS Secretary Colin Davis tel: 07785 983524, email: penmayne@hotmail.com. Romsey's PGS parish code is 416012161.



Where our parish's income comes from

As a parish we have a variety of income sources. By far the most important is the planned giving from most of the regular worshippers at the Abbey and St Swithun's. Planned giving enables us to be more assured of our financial position, to budget for the future, and reclaim tax from HMRC from those income tax payers eligible to complete a Gift Aid Declaration. In 2024 the generosity of our regular givers, and the investment income from a former generous donor, provided for over half our needs.



One-off gifts from visitors, tourists and concert-goers are also important, as are our various fundraising events.

**You will be enriched in every way
for your great generosity, which will
produce thanksgiving to God.**

2 Corinthians 9, 11.

Note that the majority of the investment income comes from a very generous gift in a will, left by a church member who directed that the income should be used by the PCC for the general purposes of the Abbey.



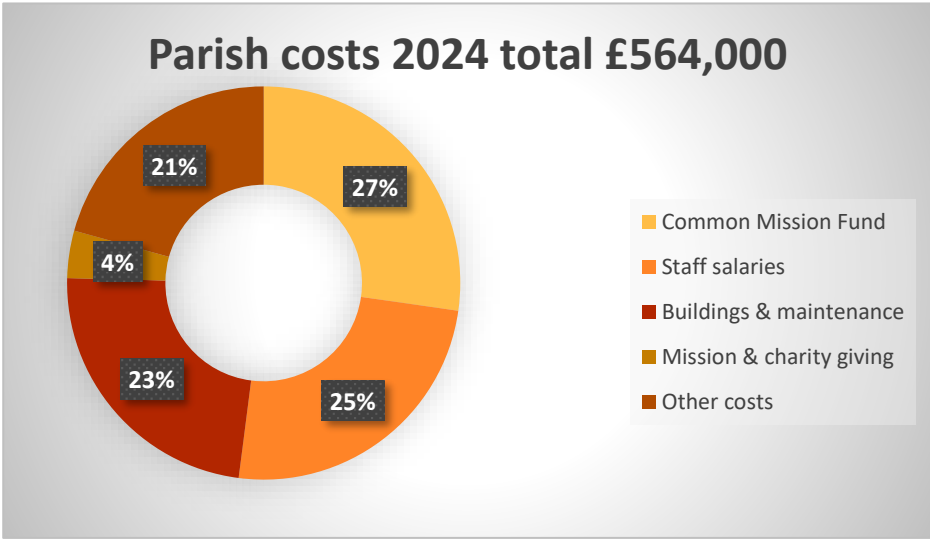
How we spend your money

Your Parochial Church Council (PCC) operates tight control over our operating expenses. Our largest costs are for direct mission and ministry which we see locally in every service, every baptism, wedding or funeral taken, every visit to a care home, every school assembly taken. Our contribution to the Diocesan Common Mission Fund (which is used to pay for clergy stipends (salaries), housing, pensions, training etc) reduced to £154,000 in 2024. Adding this to the salaries of other staff means that over half of our total spending goes directly on ministry and mission.



In line with biblical teaching the PCC aims to give up to 10% of unrestricted voluntary income to mission and charitable causes. Building costs include fabric maintenance, insurances and heat/light. 'Other costs' include music, service, governance and office costs.

In 2025 it costs £1,350 a day to fund all we do, nearly £10,000 a week.



Improving our lighting to save money, energy & carbon

The main lights inside the Abbey use old-fashioned halogen bulbs which are the biggest user of electricity in the Abbey, and a contributor to the Abbey's carbon footprint. We plan to replace them with modern LED lamps which consume up to 80% less power – so much smaller electricity bills and carbon emissions. LED lamps last far longer before they need to be replaced, and have a built-in control system which will give greater flexibility in our lighting arrangements for different parts of the Abbey.



To help us start the floodlights replacement programme, the national Church of England has agreed to match the first £10,000 of funds we raise through a scheme called **"Give to Go Green"**. During the six weeks from 24th May your one-off gifts can be made through a special webpage dedicated to our lighting appeal (see the link on the Abbey website), or using the contactless terminals in the Abbey. We will be also asking concert audiences and performers to contribute. The national Church will double our gifts of up to £10,000 at the end of our campaign in June.

We want to replace 12 concert-stage lights costing about £5,000 in total.

Then start to replace the 72 main downlights, costing over £1,000 each. Eventually every year we will save several thousand ££s in electricity bills, and several tons of carbon.



**I bring to the Lord the first part of the harvest
he has given me. *Deuteronomy 28 v10***

Gifts in wills: Give now – pay later

How long is it since you last reviewed your will? If it is more than five years, it is probably time you dusted it off to see if it needs updating. Many of us last did this at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, so you may need to check yours now. Even if it is only updating addresses of executors or beneficiaries. The Bible reminds us we should provide adequately for our earthly family and dependents. We are also encouraged to support our church family and favourite charity.

Gifts in wills to Romsey PCC are generally used to fund future developments, whether for new staff or facilities. The PCC will discuss your interests (perhaps set out in a letter of wishes) with your family or executor to help determine how your generous legacy is eventually spent. You can also leave gifts to our sister charities: Romsey Abbey Appeal Fund and the Friends of Romsey Abbey.



Wills become public documents after death and probate has been agreed, so you may also want to leave your executor(s) a private "Letter of Wishes" setting out personal gifts, funeral arrangements etc. Unlike a will, which is legally enforceable through the courts, a letter of wishes is not a legal document, merely strong guidance to your executor.

If you want a confidential discussion about reviewing your will, contact our Legacies Officer Ian Clark tel: 01794 501819 or fundraising@romseyabbey.org.uk

The Church of England has useful information at <https://www.churchofengland.org/faiht-life/church-legacy>

If your will is reasonably straightforward, the CoFE provides a FREE professional will-writing service through FareWill at <https://www.churchofengland.org/faiht-life/lasting-gift-your-church/writing-your-will/free-wills>. Using FareWill it can take as little as 30 minutes to complete a will either online or by phone. The Diocese of Winchester offers a similar service through their solicitors Batt Broadbent (contact stewardship@winchester.anglican.org). For more complex family issues, trusts or tax planning, the Church recommends you use a qualified probate solicitor.

Our choices

We encourage you to reflect prayerfully on how you would like to respond. Our individual circumstances vary widely, and our choices should reflect both our personal circumstances and our desire to live generously in response to God's love, knowing that it is in giving that we receive.



How will you respond?

- by reviewing the level of financial giving to your church family?
- by joining the Parish Giving Scheme and inflation-proofing your generosity?
- by signing a Gift Aid form?
- by giving to the "Give to Go Green" appeal to replace the Abbey floodlights?
- by reviewing your will, including a gift to your church family?
- by supporting our fundraising schemes like 'Give As You Live' when shopping at your favourite shops or switching suppliers?
- by reviewing the time and skills you offer our parish and local community

Our 2025 Stewardship campaign is running over several weeks:

- 11 May Parish income and expenditure
- 18 May Joint service at 10am and APCM, Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)
- 25 May 'Give to Go Green' appeal to replace downlights with LEDs
- 1 June Gifts in wills
- 8 June Supporting mission and charities
- 15 June Thank you!

Further helpful resources (talks, podcasts, blogs) are available at
<https://winchester.anglican.org/parishresources/stewardship>

*Romsey PCC registered charity number 1133189
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