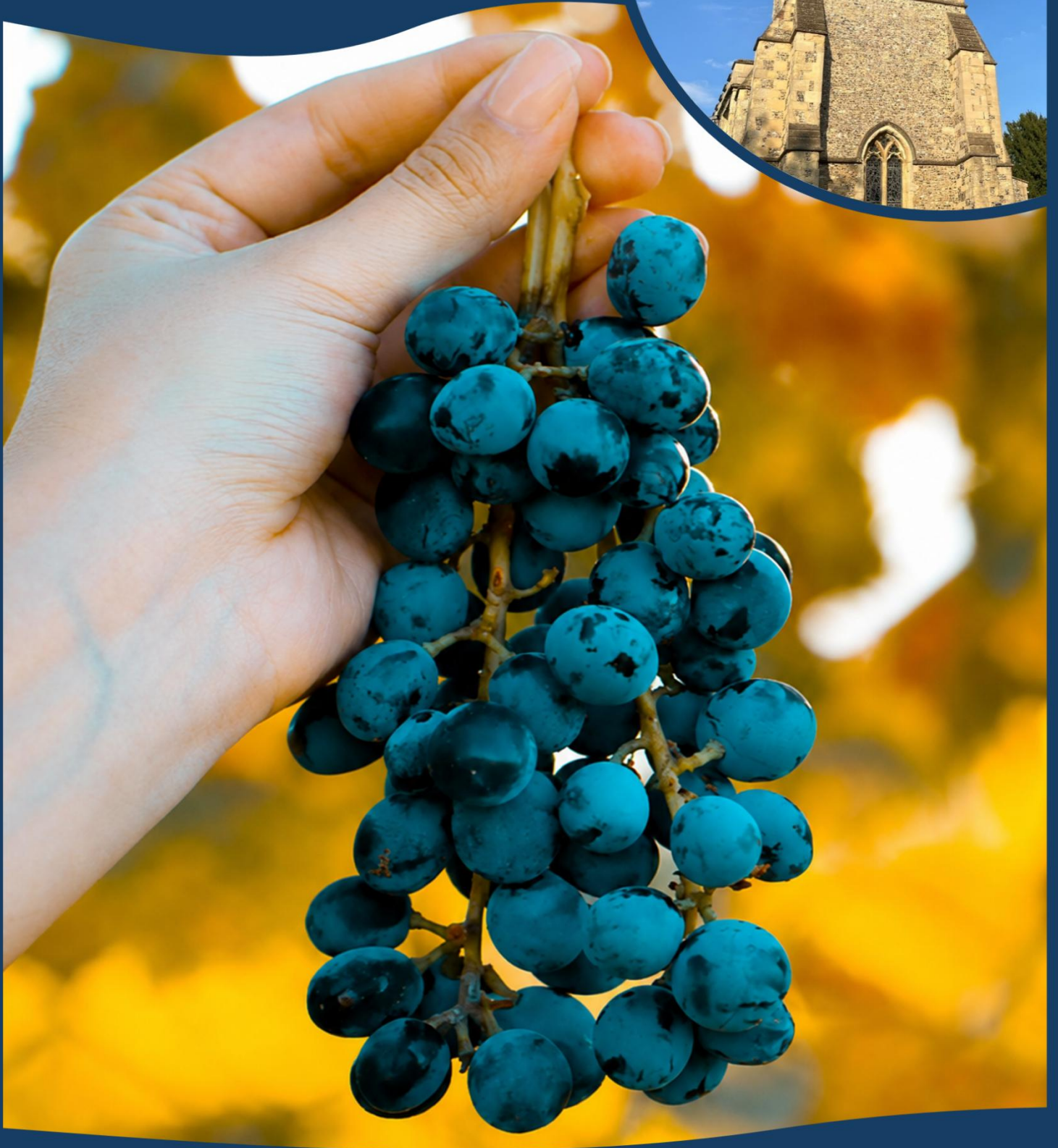


# First Fruits



Giving to Our Church

## A message from Peter



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

When I read our recent Annual Report, I was struck by how many people generously make a gift of their time and money to enable our church to thrive. Without such generosity we could not do what we do; with it, we make a profound impact in our community. So before you read any further, may I say thank you, for whatever you do, and whatever you give. As you will see as you read on, you are making a great difference.

Year in, year out, we welcome extraordinary numbers through our doors for key celebrations, take the love of Jesus into local schools, journey with families in good times and in bad, and use our church building for wonderful community events. All of this is enabled by the gifts that sustain our ministry and our buildings.

As we continue our journey of serving one another and this community together, I invite you, whether you have been a long-standing giver or have never donated before, to consider your contribution to our shared mission, and in particular how we are called to give to God out of our 'first fruits.' Your support ensures your church remains at the heart of your local community, and shines as a beacon of Christ's love.

With my prayers and very best wishes,

Peter

*Honour the Lord with your wealth,  
with the first fruits of all your crops*

*Proverbs 3.9*

## Words from our congregation and our wider community.

We like going to St Dunstan's because we really like the 10 O'clock Club with all the arts and craft. We also love the celebrations at Christmas!

Everyone has been so welcoming; we feel like we belong somewhere. When you receive all that goodness, it energises you to give it back.

Our marriage at St Dunstan's was wonderful, with invaluable preparation and a beautifully crafted service. We were welcomed truly here.

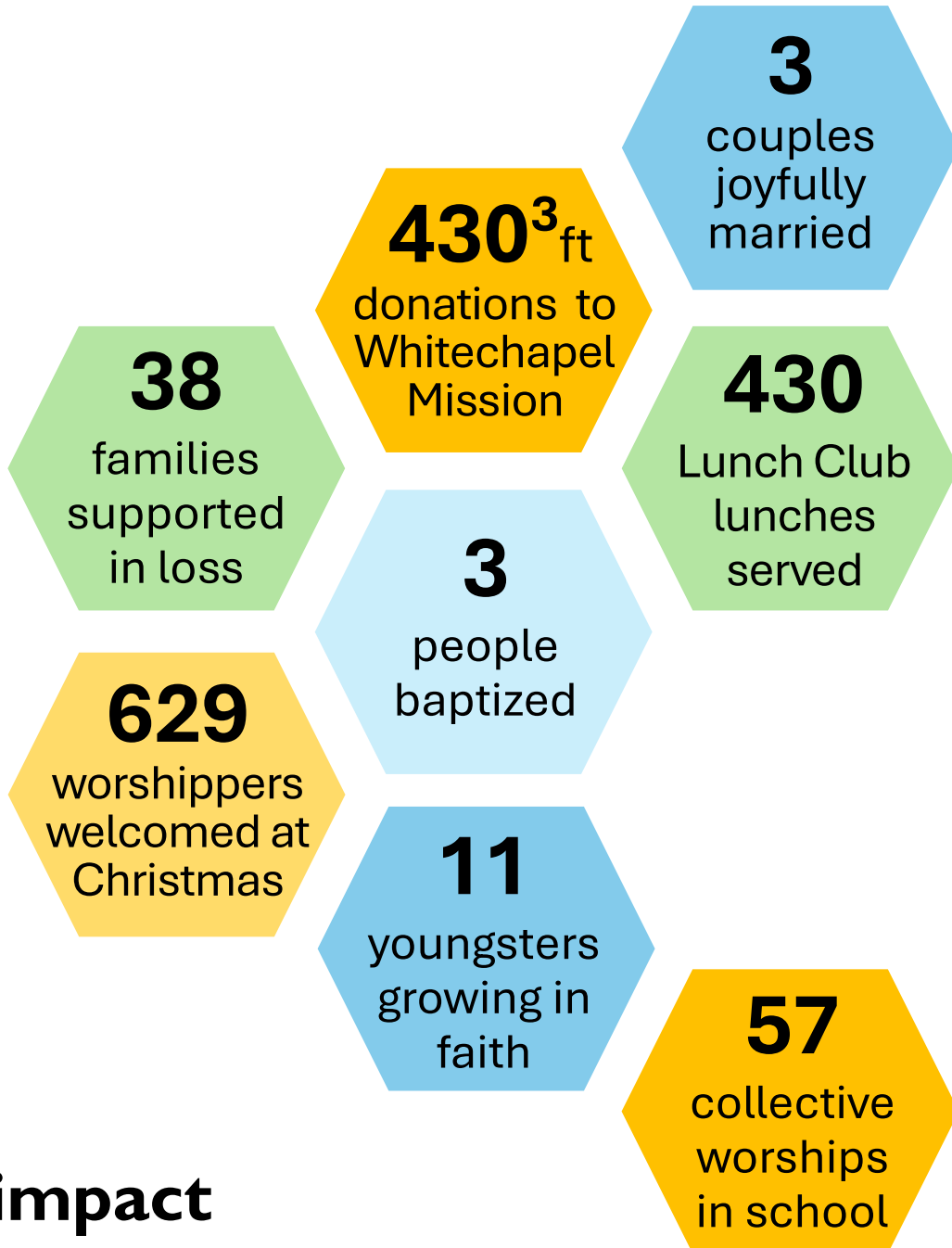


When I was bereaved, St Dunstan's was my family, and I felt a great weight lifted from me. I never would have got through without everyone.

I love St Dunstan's: there is a very special atmosphere here, and the congregation exudes the love of Christ. Also, the building is magnificent!

# What St Dunstan's means to people

We are a hub of this local community,  
and a distinctive beacon of Christ's light.



**Our impact  
in the last  
18 months**

## Giving of our First Fruits

God does not do things by halves. He gives to us lavishly, almost profligately. From the trillions of stars upon which we may gaze in the heavens, down to every leaf on every tree that we enjoy on Whiteleaf Hill, our God is one of abundance. And never is God more generous than with us; His love is boundless, His mercies are new every day, and great is His faithfulness.

Scripture is full of encouragement for us to respond to God with the same generosity. We are called to make God our first consideration in all things – and this includes what we do with our money. This is what we call giving of our ‘first fruits’ – prioritising God by committing to giving out of the first portions of our income, rather from the leftovers. Inspired by the biblical principle of tithing, many people choose to commit at least 5% of their net income to their church.



In this brochure you will have read some of the things that people feel makes St Dunstan’s special, and we want to maintain that distinctive Christ-like presence in people’s lives. Your giving is therefore not just about expressing gratitude and generosity to God, but ensuring our continued role in our community.

With your giving we can continue to fund a vicar to lead our shared life, and maintain our beautiful, welcoming buildings in which people find such solace and inspiration. We can teach our children to know how loved they are by God, and bring comfort to grieving families. We can do all this and more if we have a strong financial basis from which to work.

Please spend time in prayer to carefully consider the action to which God is calling you. If you have not yet committed to giving regularly to St Dunstan’s, please consider doing so. If you are already a regular giver, please reflect upon your level of giving, and whether you are giving out of the first fruits of your harvest.

Whatever you give, thank you.

*The choicest of the first fruits of your ground  
you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God.*

*Exodus 23.19*

## **A summary from our Treasurer**



### **Last Year**

The PCC takes great care of the church's finances; last year, our overall expenditure amounted to £302.58 per day. This would equate to just over £2 per day for every person registered on our electoral roll as a member of our church. Aside from two grants we have been fortunate to receive in recent years to help us maintain the churchyard, we do not receive any public money, and so we must cover our expenses together as a community.

### **Expenditure Forecast**

We anticipate our overall costs increasing by more than 7% this year. This is primarily due to the effects of the rise in cost of living – which affects the church just as it does households – and an increase in our 'Parish Share' (details opposite) due to the culmination of a grant, general inflation, clergy stipends increasing to reflect the cost of living, and our electoral roll size.

### **The Importance of Regular Giving**

Many of you already choose to give regularly to the church, for which we are enormously grateful. Regular donations are so important as they do not depend on you attending a service every week; rather they provide predictable income which allows us to plan with confidence. Furthermore, claiming gift aid on regular donations is both easier and quicker than it is for cash collections.

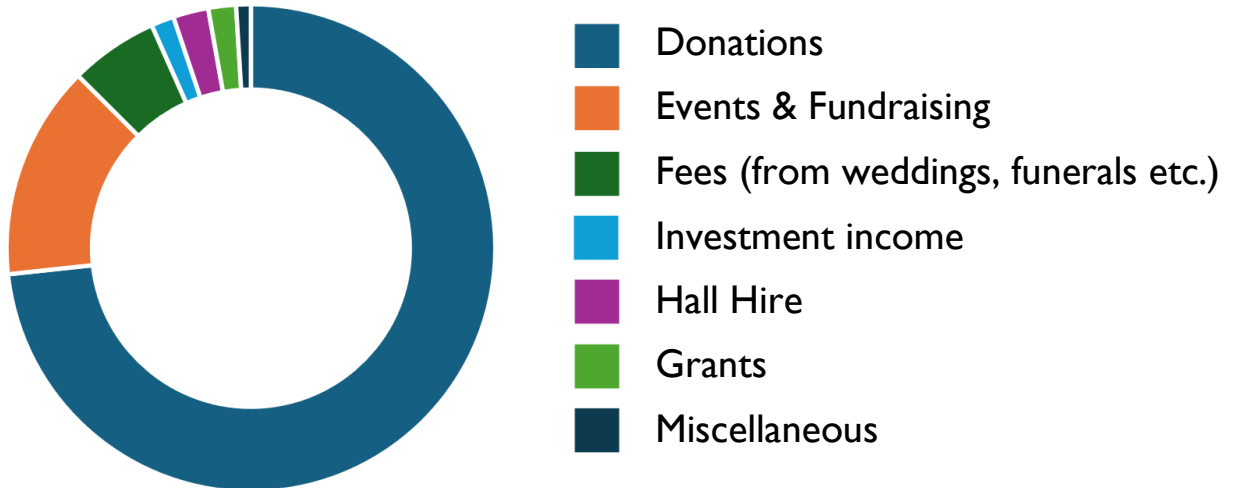
### **Leaving a Gift in Your Will**

If you want to leave the church a gift in your will, please do get in contact, as this is an additional way in which you can make a very great difference to St Dunstan's.

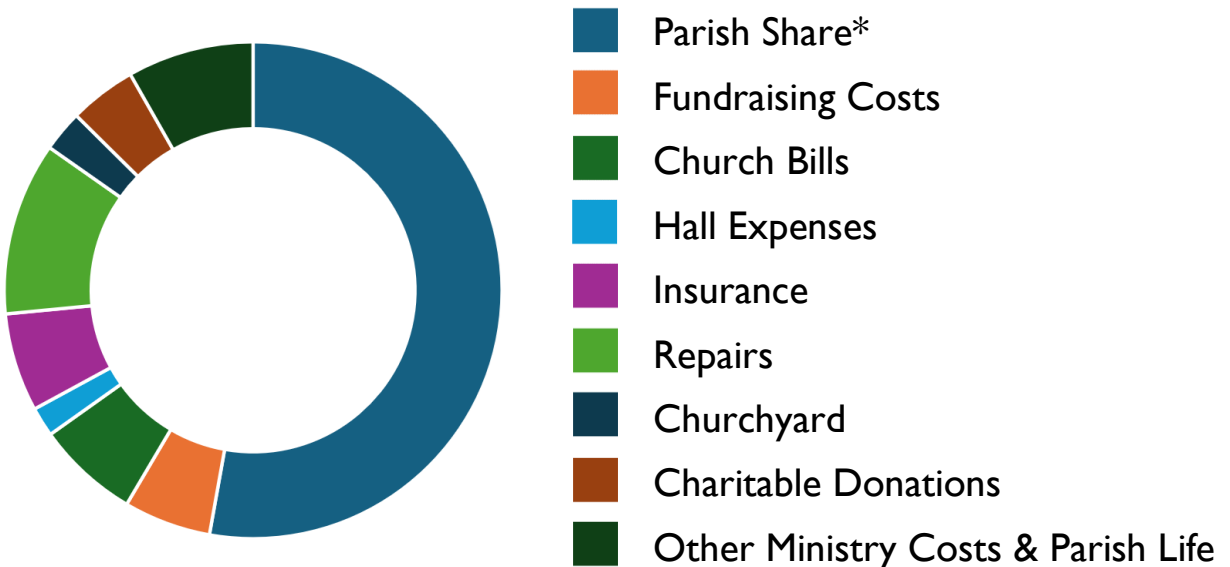
## Our Cash Flow

Below you can see the financial figures for 2025, published in our annual report, displayed as a proportion of our income and expenditure.

### Income in 2025 - £112,048



### Outgoings in 2025 - £110,078



\* The Parish Share is our contribution to the Diocese of Oxford, which funds: the provision of our vicar; the upkeep of our Rectory; legal, safeguarding, financial, and other support that we receive; the training of future clergy; assistance and grants that are available to churches across the area.

## How to contribute



The best way to establish a regular gift to St Dunstan's is through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). PGS is a non-profit organisation that enables people to donate to their local church, streamlining regular giving via Direct Debit and automatically claiming Gift Aid. This improves the regular flow of money into our account and reduces the administrative burden on our church volunteers.

There are various ways you can establish a Direct Debit through PGS:

- Visit [stdunstanschurch.com/giving](http://stdunstanschurch.com/giving) and follow the 'Giving' button link there to PGS
- Visit <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish> and search 'Monks Risborough.'
- Scan the QR Code to the right.
- Call PGS on 0333 002 1271.
- Ask our Treasurer David Curry for a paper form.



You can also set up a standing order directly with your bank. Please contact David Curry for the church's banking details.

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver – 2 Cor 9.7*

## Getting help or finding out more

If you need assistance with any of the above, or would like to discuss anything to do with the church's finances and fundraising, please contact:

Our Vicar Peter: 01844 274771 / [revpetergodden@outlook.com](mailto:revpetergodden@outlook.com)

Our Treasurer David: 07854 198498 / [drdacurry@gmail.com](mailto:drdacurry@gmail.com)

**On behalf of all of us who make up this community,  
thank you.**