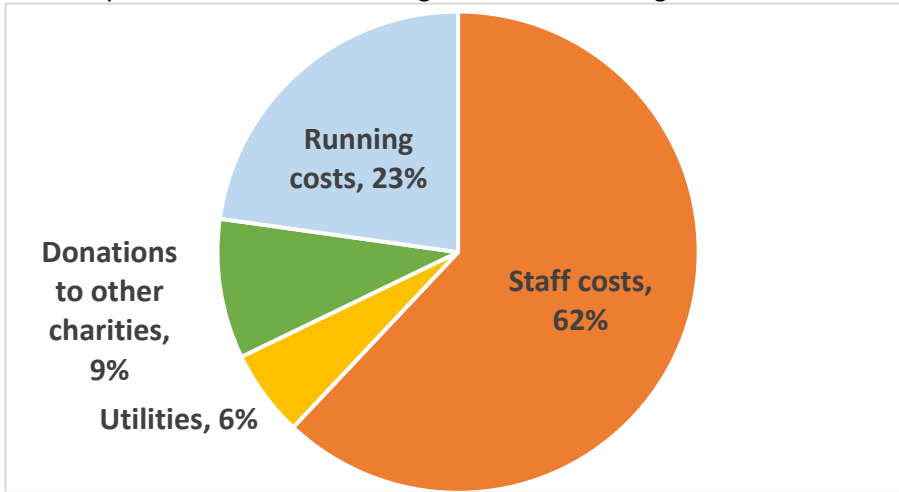
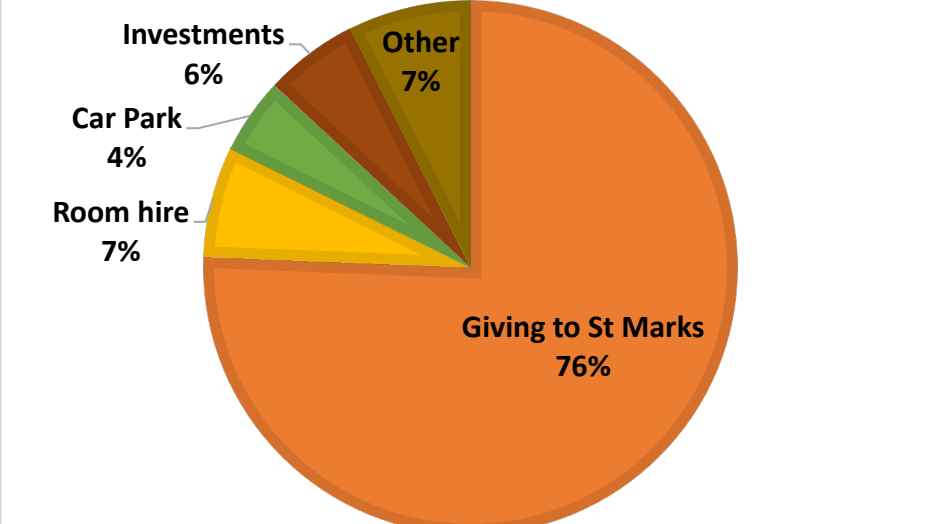


Finance FAQs 2026 v1

General											
How much does St Marks expect to spend in 2026?	The original budget of 2026 was £249,888. The latest forecast expenditure is now £253,862.										
How much income does St Marks expect in 2026?	The original budget of 2025 was £256,972. The latest forecast income is now £269,505.										
Does St Marks expect a surplus or deficit in 2026?	St Marks is currently forecasting a surplus of around 15,000 by the end of 2026.										
Why is there a surplus this year?	The surplus has happened during 2026 St Mark's has only been paying for the second paid ordained member of staff for part of the year. In most previous years there have been 2 paid ordained members of staff for all of the year. This will be the case in 2027. Other ordained staff at St Marks are either self-supporting, volunteers or retired.										
What will happen in 2027?	Costs in 2027 will be significantly higher than 2026 as we will be paying for both ordained members of staff for all of the year. There is expected to be a shortfall of about £20,000. The surplus from 2026 will be used to help to fund that shortfall.										
Expenditure											
How much does it cost to run St Marks for a week or month?	It costs about £5,000 per week, or £20,500 per month, to run St Marks. This is the equivalent of about £40 for each adult in the Sunday congregation each week.										
Where is most of St Marks money spent?	Most of St Marks expenditure is spent on employing staff (over 60%). The following pie chart breaks down expenditure in the 2025 budget into 4 main categories.  <table border="1"> <caption>Expenditure Breakdown (2025 Budget)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Staff costs</td> <td>62%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Running costs</td> <td>23%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donations to other charities</td> <td>9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Utilities</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Percentage	Staff costs	62%	Running costs	23%	Donations to other charities	9%	Utilities	6%
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Does St Marks employ/pay for any staff?	St Marks pays for the vicar and associate vicar. In addition to this St Marks employees 5 part time staff: an Operations Coordinator, Children & Families Minister, Director of Music, Caretaker and Cleaner.																										
Isn't the Vicar paid by the Diocese?	Although all clergy are paid by the Diocese, we then make contributions to fully cover those costs.																										
Does St Marks give to charity?	Yes. St Marks has for many years given away 10% of its donated income to other charities both local and international. The choice of these charities is decided by two committees made up by volunteers from the congregation. In 2025 the charities we supported were: <table> <tr> <td>International Donations</td><td>Home Donations</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bwindi</td><td>South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice</td></tr> <tr> <td>Care4Calais</td><td>Bens Centre</td></tr> <tr> <td>Christian Aid</td><td>Together for the CofE</td></tr> <tr> <td>Global Justice</td><td>Broomhall Girls Youth Group</td></tr> <tr> <td>Literacy for Life</td><td>Broomhall Centre</td></tr> <tr> <td>USPG</td><td>Nomad</td></tr> <tr> <td>Phase</td><td>Hope at Home</td></tr> <tr> <td>Practical Action</td><td>Eco church</td></tr> <tr> <td>Succol</td><td>Church action on poverty</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Inclusive Church</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Hope for the future</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Solace</td></tr> </table>	International Donations	Home Donations	Bwindi	South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice	Care4Calais	Bens Centre	Christian Aid	Together for the CofE	Global Justice	Broomhall Girls Youth Group	Literacy for Life	Broomhall Centre	USPG	Nomad	Phase	Hope at Home	Practical Action	Eco church	Succol	Church action on poverty		Inclusive Church		Hope for the future		Solace
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Income													
Where does St Marks income come from?	The vast majority of St Marks income, nearly 80%, comes from donations from church members. In line with all other Anglican churches, we are a financially independent charity and not only do we receive no funding from the Church of England we actually contribute to the running of the Diocese of Sheffield. The following pie chart breaks down St Marks income by the 5 main categories  <table border="1"> <caption>St Marks Income Breakdown</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Giving to St Marks</td> <td>76%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Room hire</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Investments</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Car Park</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Percentage	Giving to St Marks	76%	Other	7%	Room hire	7%	Investments	6%	Car Park	4%
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How much does St Marks make from hiring its building?	St Marks hopes to raise over £20,000 in 2026 from renting out the building to various groups for concert, rehearsals, parties and other events.												
Giving to St Marks													
How much should I consider giving to St Marks?	St Marks has no membership fees; the amount people donate is a personal choice and varies widely. However, the traditional guidance from the Church of England is that church members should give away 10% of their income (after tax) with half of this, ie 5%, going to their church and the other half to other charities.												
What is the average amount that people give?	The average (mean) monthly donation is £106. The median donation is significantly lower at £65.												
How many regular donors does St Marks have?	St Marks currently has 120 regular donors.												
What is the range of donations?	The range is from less than £10 to over £500 each month. The result of this spread is that nearly 75% of donated income comes from 40% of donors.												

Is giving increasing or decreasing?	Over the last few years while giving has increased each year it has never kept pace with inflation. If giving had kept pace with inflation since 2021 donations would be about £20,000 higher.
How can I give regularly to St Marks?	The preferred way is through the Parish Giving Scheme. However, you can also make donations by Standing Order directly to the church bank account. Standing Order Sort Code: 40-41-18 Account Number: 80724548
What is the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)?	PGS is a scheme designed to reduce the administration required in parishes. It is run centrally for all parishes and collects donations by Direct Debit each month and then passes the money on to each parish. Gift Aid is also collected by the scheme from HMRC where appropriate. The scheme is run at no cost to parishes.
How do I join the Parish Giving Scheme?	You can join the scheme either online or by phone: Parish Giving Scheme www.parishgiving.org.uk ☎ 0333 002 1271 
Who knows how much I give?	Only two people; just the treasurer and the gift aid secretary have access to this information. The details are never shared or discussed with anybody else.
How do I tell if I give through the Parish Giving scheme or by Standing Order?	If you are not sure you can tell by looking either at a bank statement or your bank's online app. If you are part of the Parish Giving Scheme your donation will be collected on the first working day of each month. The transaction will be a direct debit, this might be shown as DD. The description of the transaction will be Parish Giving Scheme If you donate by Standing Order you can choose when you make the donation so it could be any day of the month. The transaction will be recorded as a Standing Order which might be shown as SO. You can also choose the description that will be shown on your statement.
Is it more helpful to give regularly or occasionally?	It is more helpful to give regularly as it helps with budgeting and the understanding of St Marks financial position. However, all donations are gratefully received.
What happens if I can't maintain my giving?	You can reduce or stop giving to St Marks at any time. How to do this varies slightly depending how you give. If you give through the Parish Giving Scheme it is best to contact them directly, If you give by Standing Order then you need to contact your bank or update the details on your banking app.

What is Gift Aid and how does it help?	The Gift Aid scheme is operated by HMRC. It allows charities to reclaim the tax you have paid on donations you make, if you want them to. This makes a big difference as it increases the value of your donation by 25% and is a major source of income for St Marks. In 2024 St Marks recovered £34,700 from HMRC through the scheme. One off cash or card donations up to £30 also qualify.
Investments	
Does St Marks have any investments?	Yes. St Marks is very fortunate to have some investments. Some of these are set aside for fabric works but most are used to generate a vital £11,000 per year of regular income.
How are St Marks investments managed?	St Marks investments are managed through an organisation called CCLA. They are a very large investment management company looking after a total of over £14 billion. They aim to generate regular income while following strong ethical principles. If you would like more details either look at their website ccla.co.uk or talk to the treasurer.
Reserves	
How big are St Marks reserves?	St Marks aims to maintain about 3 months regular expenditure as general reserves. In the last published accounts, at 31 December 2025, this was £51,359.
Are there any future costs that would use these reserves?	The general reserves are mainly to ensure that St Marks can cope with any unexpected short-term financial issues. In addition, there are £16,469 of fabric reserves which will help to fund any major repairs or building work such as upgrading the heating system in the upper room or maintaining the trees and walls on the church green.
Legacies	
Has St Marks been given any legacies?	Over the last 10 years St Marks has received 18 legacies. These have helped to fund a wide variety of projects such as Home from Home mentioned above and our Children and Families worker.
I was considering leaving a legacy to St Marks. Is there anybody I can talk to about this?	If you would like to talk about this then the treasurer would be happy to discuss this in confidence. The best way to contact is by email on david.treasurer3@gmail.com