St John's Budget 2027 & Giving Review



What this is about

So we're here again! It's the St John's annual review of our giving, as we look at our budget for next year. It's that time when we thank the Lord for his goodness to us, and look ahead to how we should serve him in the coming year. Your Church Council (PCC) recently asked 2 questions:

1. ***How much should we spend on our life & witness in 2027?*** *and*
2. ***What should we ask of each other in our financial giving to God's work here in 2027?***

What we're encouraged by

We ought to begin with a hearty thanks to our Treasurer, Andy Mumford, for his work on our 2027 Budget. It covers inflationary rises in most areas; further works to the Parish Centre; and an above-inflationary increase in our contribution to mission across the Sheffield Diocese, the 'Common Fund'. That Fund is the only way the gospel reaches some of the poorest communities in South Yorkshire, including here in Chapeltown and up in High Green. The Diocese desperately needs increased funds to avoid a growing deficit.

That sounds like a huge demand for next year. But actually it's not! As we look into 2027, the PCC is very encouraged and hopeful.

First, **our giving in 2026 has been amazing**. As a church our regular contributions and one-off donations mean that we should break even this year, even though we've had some big items of expenditure for works on the Parish Centre, which we didn't foresee. *Praise the Lord for a generous church family and for answers to prayer!*

Second, **we celebrate another year of growing worship and witness**: not just our regular Sunday gatherings which are so encouraging, but lots of other high points. Think of the wonderful Confirmation Service last November, the new faces we've welcomed into our church family this year, the growth of our children's and youth work, both at E68 and at the Basecamp Holiday Club; not to mention our public witness at Easter and Christmas and in special events like Pints of View. And so much practical weekly and even daily care for each other.

Third, even if we increase our Common Fund in 2027, as the Diocese have asked, we can still meet our budget with just **a modest increase in our giving next year,** namely 3%, in line with inflation. This year, in contrast to the last two years, we don't need to aim for an above-average increase in regular giving.

Finally, there is something more to consider: which is not so much regular giving as **a once-in-while gospel opportunity**. We are in talks with churches from across Sheffield (in the form of ARISE Sheffield) about the ***Gospel Delivery Project***.



This aims to see every household in Chapeltown receive a free, attractive copy of Mark's Gospel for Sheffield in 2027; and an invitation to find out more in Bible Discovery Group.

Though this would mean us finding roughly a further £2,500 on top of the budget, we think it is so exciting and important for us as a church and the spiritual needs of our community, that we'd like to encourage those who feel able – and are stirred by that vision - to consider additional one-off gifts for that specific initiative.

Which is why alongside our Giving Review this year, you'll be hearing about the ***Gospel Delivery Project***, so you can respond *either* at the same time as our Giving Review, *or* as you feel able in 2027 itself. We didn't want to suddenly raise this a few months down the line, but rather are inviting you to treat it as a special extra, not so much as part of your regular support of St. John's.

What we might do this Autumn

In the light of all this, what we're asking of you (and each other as PCC members) is:

1. We **aim to meet the 2027 Budget** for expenditure of just over £153,000 (an increase of £6,000 on last year, which equates to £2,948 per week). Looking at our giving over this last year, if as many of us as possible manage a 3% increase on that, we will comfortably meet this target. And we'll be a wonderful blessing to some of the poorest communities in the Diocese.

2. We **listen to what God's word has to say about stewardship** of all that he gives us. Not just our money, but our love, time and abilities, all that we have and are. The PCC has asked me to preach on that at our Harvest Thanksgiving on 4th October. The reading will be Jesus' parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), which is wonderfully encouraging as we pray about how to use God's gifts, including our money. It shows us how being faithful leads to being joyful: both for the Lord and for us. (And if you'd like to do a bit more Bible study on this, help yourself to the little leaflet, 'God's Word on Giving' at the back of church or on the Giving page of our website.)

3. Will you **prayerfully consider how you can respond, and make a pledge** using the special pledge form with this leaflet OR by using the link here: .... ***by Sunday 25th October***? You can do that anonymously in the offertory bag any Sunday, or online. That will help the PCC plan ahead; and encourage us with the news in November.

4. We **pray for God's grace,** that the Holy Spirit will continue to richly resource all the life and witness of St John's both here and more widely.

How does this sound to you? Will you join us in this? And if you have any questions at all about any of this, please speak to Andy Mumford or email him on andy.mumford@hotmail.co.uk.

Rick Stordy
20 September 2026

