

Where we spend our Money at St. Mary's

Church and services	
Parish Support fund	
Salaries	
Ministry and outreach	
TOTAL	£ 2480

Cost of running the Diocese of Southwark

<i>Spread across 365 parishes</i>	<i>£24M</i>
➤ <i>Cost of Clergy</i>	
- Stipend & Housing	
- Pension contributions	
- On-going Training of clergy and curates	
➤ <i>Support for Ministry</i>	
➤ <i>Trinity House, Diocesan Admin, Boards & Agencies</i>	
- Non-parochial staff	
- General Synod	
- Our Contribution	£ 1,192

Current giving at St. Mary's

No. of people	Amount given per week
23	£6.90
11	£ 7-14
4	£15-20
7	£20-28
6	Over £34

The Challenge

Weekly Expenditure	£ 2480
Weekly Income	£ 2328
SHORTFALL	£ -152
Annually	£ - 7900

- What we give....is between us and God
- What God expects....is that each of us will shoulder our responsibility as a member of our Church family to the best of our ability
- Because - *The Responsibility Is Ours*

Sermon St. Mary's Sanderstead

17.3.19 Lent 2

MONEY...

Workers earn it, spendthrifts burn it, bankers lend it,

People spend it, forgers fake it, taxes take it, dying leaves it, heirs receive it, the thrifty save it, misers crave it, robbers steal it, the rich increase it, gamblers lose it ... I could use it.

Money...

Two men who were traveling in the Holy Land came to the Sea of Galilee. They discovered that it would cost them fifty pounds each to cross the lake by boat and so they cried out in protest.

"The Lakes of Killarney are the most beautiful lakes in the world and one can cross them for a few quid"

The guide explained: "Oh, but this is the lake that Jesus walked on!"

The men quickly retorted: "Small wonder, at the prices you charge for taking a boat."

Billy Graham was speaking in the San Jose area, and on the closing day of his trip told this story.

There was a strong man who travelled with a circus and one of his most impressive stunts was to take an orange and squeeze every last drop of juice out of it.

Then he would offer one thousand pounds to anyone who could manage to squeeze as much as one additional drop from the fruit.

He went from town to town making his offer, but no one was able to win the one thousand pounds from him.

Then one day he came to a small town and made his demonstration of juice-squeezing prowess and his challenge.

A small, elderly man came forward and said he'd like to take a try at the challenge and so he took the crushed orange and proceeded to squeeze six more drops of juice from it.

The strong man was amazed. He could hardly believe his eyes and asked how he was able to do this. The man shrugged and said, "Oh, I'm the treasurer down at the church and we do this all the time."

Jesus talked a lot about money. Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables are concerned with how we handle money and possessions. In the Gospels, an amazing one out of 10 verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money and the Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions. It's clear then, that God is concerned about our cash...

Generally People hate sermons on money and believe me they hate preaching on it even more....which is why I am using plenty of humorous stories in this challenging and slightly uncomfortable topic One man said that Money is like manure: If you spread it around, it does a world of good; but if you pile it up, it stinks to high heaven.

The Rev. Don Holesapple, a Baptist minister, told the story of the time he received a call from a woman who was quite upset over the death of her pet cat, Homer.

She wanted the minister to conduct the funeral service for Homer!

But Don explained that this was a little out of his line and referred her to a friend, a Presbyterian minister at a church round the corner. Later, however he learned that the Presbyterian had also referred her, this time to a Methodist minister. About an hour later, the distraught lady called Don back, I am at my wit's end, I just cant find anyone to conduct Homer's funeral, what's more, she said, I was happy to pay whoever took the service a thousand pounds. The Reverend Don said it took him only a moment to mull her words over before saying to her, "Well, why didn't you tell me that the cat was a Baptist in the first place?"

Money is one of the acid tests of character and whether someone is rich or poor, observing their reaction to their possessions and you will have a revealing pointer into their character.

In Matthew 6, we read, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

There is only one place in the whole bible where we are told to test God on something, and its found in our first reading.

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and try me now in this, says the LORD of hosts, and see If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it.

We all need money, and we know that churches don't run on fresh air,

But money can often have a sinister nature.

The Rich young ruler who came to Jesus put it ahead of his salvation. He was a good person in every other area, but sadly his wealth meant more to him than his eternal soul and were told he walked away....

But there's nothing wrong with having money even lots of money after all were told that Joseph, Solomon, Daniel, Joseph of Arimathea, and Barnabus were all very wealthy, but they all gave out of what they had....

The Rich Young Ruler made a very costly choice. But no matter how much wealth he had, he could not drive a car, have any form of surgery, turn on a light, buy penicillin, play a piano, watch television, wash dishes in running water, type a letter, mow a lawn, fly in an aeroplane, sleep on an memory foam mattress, or talk on the phone.

And so if he was rich, then what are we?

The PCC asked me to preach a sermon on money because St Mary's can't function without it, and it's our responsibility to finance the mission and ministry in this place so that the kingdom of God may grow.... and so with Tim and Clive's help I've put some figures on a PowerPoint so that we can see what it costs to run this our church and to ponder this lent on our attitude to money, and whether or not we are able to invest something of Gods blessing to us in his church.

You will each have received a new pledge form, and I am so very grateful for all that you do and give for the glory of God in this place but may I humbly ask you to consider what you give and if you currently don't give financially to the church, that you consider doing so.