

## REGULAR GIVING SCHEME (RGS) 2022 LETTER

Our RGS is the foundation of our income and we thank God for his continued blessings in this area. We are grateful that our RGS income in 2021 was £47,965 above 2020 and also significantly above budget. Ad hoc donations totalled £7,989 in 2021. Total income, including fees, rental charges, ministry events etc at £699,674 was £96,060 above budget. As expenses totalled £733,411, we ended 2021 with a deficit of £33,737 but after the allocation of discretionary funds this resulted in a surplus of £53,064 for general funds. This was way better than the budgeted deficit of £52,898. We are encouraged to see more people joining RGS each year with 30 new people joining during 2021. 41 people increased their giving while 3 reduced their giving and 12 people left the scheme during 2021. We also praise the Lord for a legacy of £2,500 that was left to the church. We thank all of you for your giving to the Lord's work, whether you have given faithfully over many years or if you have just joined RGS.

2021 saw a decrease in income from the hire of the halls and meeting rooms as a result of the pandemic and we only expect a small increase in 2022. Rental income in 2021 at £32,124 was good but lower than 2020 which was £47,461. This was because the Ministry Trainees occupied one of the flats for 4 months of the year. It will reduce further in 2022 as the Trainees occupy the flat for the full 12 months.

To be prudent, we have budgeted RGS giving in 2022 to be £486,648, which is 6% lower than the actual income in 2021. We continue to support our missionaries and the budget for giving to missions in 2022 is £95,770. Our ministry staff salary costs will be lower in 2022 as we did not replace Tim Adams when he left. Our budget for total expenses in 2022 is £736,452 compared to the actual cost of £733,411 in 2021.

Expenses are forecast to exceed income by £97,077 in 2022, but £43,210 of this will be paid from 'discretionary funds' that we use to pay for training of more ministry leaders. As we ended 2021 with a good surplus, we have been able to allocate some of that surplus to reduce the budgeted deficit in 2022 to £25,000. We plan to fund this remaining deficit of £25,000 from church reserves. Naturally, it would be wonderful if RGS giving plus associated Gift Aid was £25,000 higher than budget as that would mean that we would not have to use any of the reserves.

**What do I need to do?** If you are not already a member of RGS, we ask you to please think and pray about how you can contribute financially to God's work at St Mary's.

Some of the benefits of RGS are that it is easier for you to give regularly in a planned way rather than having to remember it each week, month or quarter. You can set up a standing order or arrange to make payments via telephone or online banking but you can still pay manually by envelope should you so choose. It is also easier for us to budget, as we know

what our income will be each month. If you pay tax, we can also claim Gift Aid tax relief whereby HMRC gives us another £2.50 for every £10 that you give to the church. To give you some idea how important that is, we received £130,000 last year in Gift Aid tax relief!

**RGS Online and Communications.** An RGS Resources area is available on the church website, [www.stmarysmaidenhead.org/rgs](http://www.stmarysmaidenhead.org/rgs) containing more information, a self-service portal and a couple of supporting forms that may be required for new members and renewals. Whenever possible, RGS matters will be communicated via email if you have notified us of your email address or if it is in the Care List, (please be sure to keep us up to date with any changes via the portal). This will make savings on the paper and time taken in administration. If you do not use email, we will communicate with you by letter.

**Self-Service Portal.** Please use the portal to join the RGS, renew an existing pledge, or if you need to make changes to your giving, tax status, address or to request ad-hoc statements. The returns from this process provide an important input to the church budget and allow us to check whether we are on track with the above. It is not a contract and you can increase or decrease your giving at any time as circumstances change. If you cannot access the online portal, please contact the RGS secretaries; see below.

**Standing Orders.** If you can give by standing order, phone or on-line banking please do so, ensuring that your gift is identifiable as SURNAME.INITIAL/RGS, e.g. SMITH.J/RGS.

**RGS Statements.** During the pandemic, we switched to an 'on request' approach to issuing statements and this revealed that only a small number of members required one. We have decided to continue with this approach in future, which will save much printing and postage costs. When the statements are available, we will issue a notice in one or more of the weekly Church Family Updates, and/or in Contact, as and when these are resumed. The statements confirm the amounts contributed by you and any Gift Aid tax relief we have claimed, if applicable.

**MyGiving.Online.** Alternatively, if you simply wish to check your giving and whether we have claimed Gift Aid on the gifts (and don't need a printed statement), you can use the MyGiving.Online app (available on both iOS and Google). You will need to contact us on the email address below for a personal username and password

If you have any questions about any aspect of the RGS, please contact Mike Walker or Carolyn Allen or email us at [finance@stmarysmaidenhead.org](mailto:finance@stmarysmaidenhead.org).

Thank you.

John Blackbeard  
Chairman of the Finance Committee