

# GIVING 2024



For 881 years Christians have met on the site of St Luke's Church. For hundreds of years followers of Jesus have sacrificially given money to continue God's mission in Thurnby and beyond as part of their worship – for their generosity and your continued generosity we are incredibly grateful.

Over the coming weeks we are asking everyone who counts themselves as part of St Luke's Church to take some time to pray, think and decide what your financial giving to St Luke's Church will look like for the next year and then to act upon that decision.

Enclosed is a form that we're asking everyone to complete either on paper and return to the church office or online ([www.thurnbychurch.com/give](http://www.thurnbychurch.com/give)) by **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**.

## Why give to St Luke's Church?

*"Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."* 1 Chronicles 29:14.

Today St Luke's Church is made up of around 130 different households, people of different ages, from different backgrounds, and with different circumstances all brought together in Jesus Christ. Despite all our differences everything that all of us have comes from the Lord.

**Giving to St Luke's is part of how we worship** and is a way of celebrating, acknowledging, and giving thanks to God that everything we have comes from Him – who in Jesus gave up everything for us. The first Christians were one in heart and mind and shared all they had giving from what they had as there was need (Acts 4:32-35). Giving to St Luke's helps us to belong and to have a shared life together.

**Giving to St Luke's helps meet the gospel need** by continuing the work of making Jesus known here in Thurnby and beyond that has been going on for nearly 900 years.

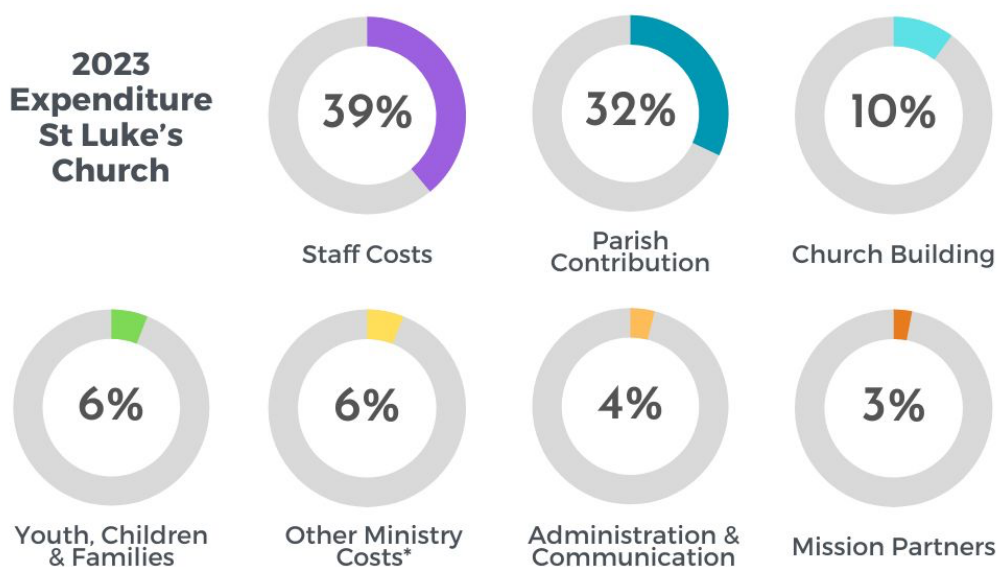
**Giving to St Luke's helps meet the practical needs of church life.** Each year between two thirds and three quarters of our income comes from your generous, joyful, and sacrificial giving. In 2023 this amounted to just under £130,000.

Your giving goes towards paying for our staff team, giving a contribution to the Diocese of Leicester that means there are clergy, funding all that we do with different age groups, whether that's holidays clubs and youth camps, work in schools, activities in Café Fifty Five, running Christianity Explored courses, our seniors ministry, Sunday children's groups, open air services, Raindrops and Thurnby Youth Group. Your money also means we financially support different mission partners and can keep the church building maintained.

## What is our current financial situation?

Just like every household that makes up St Luke's has experienced, our costs in the last couple of years have gone up. In 2023 this meant we spent just over £236,000.

Our spending in 2023 was £46,000 more than we had in income. £10,000 of this was planned spending from our reserves for work done to the church building. Alongside some increasing costs the remainder of the deficit is made up of a decrease in giving in 2023 by nearly £10,000 when we had budgeted for a £23,000 increase.



\*evangelism, Sunday services, seniors ministry, weddings & funerals

In our planning for 2024 we have reduced outgoings by £7,500 and have secured some additional time-limited funding towards some of our staff roles. We are hoping to see an increase in giving of £10,000 this year. Without any increase to giving in 2024 we will have review what we are able to do and plan for in the years ahead.

## GIVING AT ST LUKE'S

Year	Giving
2022	£138,900.20
2023	£129,513.73
2024*	£140,600.00

\* budgeted for 2024

## How much should I give?

*“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7*

If our giving is to make a noticeable difference to our life as St Luke's Church, it will be making a noticeable difference to our own day-to-day lives. We are to notice what we give. No one should give to St Luke's in such a way that you are unable to pay your bills or mean you risk getting into debt, but do you notice what you give?

Within the life of a church like St Luke's there will be different levels of giving. Your circumstances might mean you are able to give more or might mean you are able to give less. It also means that if your financial circumstances change – a new job, a pay rise, a cut in hours, you retire, loss of tax credits – it is likely that your level of giving will change.

As you seek to prayerfully decide how much you should give, we would like to offer three approaches you could take, depending on your circumstances.

- 1. Start giving something.** If you are not yet a regular giver to St Luke's often the best first step to take is to start giving something. It might only be a small amount but will still make a genuine difference. If each of our 130 households started regularly giving or increased their giving by £3 a week, we would see an increase of £20,000.
- 2. Give from your best not your leftovers.** Jesus shows in the example of the widow's gift in Mark 12:41-44 that our giving is to come out of the total of what we have and not just what we have left over at the end of the month. Giving is a first thought and not an afterthought.
- 3. Give 10% or beyond.** Giving 10% picks up an Old Testament principle of giving a tithe, a tenth of what you have. The New Testament does not require Christians to give 10% but encourages cheerful generosity. For some, giving 10% will be a helpful target to aim at. Some will give 5% to St Luke's and 5% to other Christian organisations and charities. For some 10% will be more than you are able to give but for others you will be able to give substantially more than 10%.

### **How do I give to St Luke's?**

*“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income...”* (1 Corinthians 16:2) *“When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing...”* (Matthew 6:3)

The New Testament suggests that there are **two ways of giving – planned and spontaneous.**

Planned giving is the regular amount you decide to give, with most people giving a set amount each month via a Standing Order or via the Parish Giving Scheme. **Out of the 130 households that make up St Luke's 66 households currently give by Standing Order or via the Parish Giving Scheme.**





Giving in this way enables us as a church to budget each year knowing in advance what the most significant part of our income will be. We would love by the end of June 2024 to see this number increase by 33 households.

Planned giving via the Parish Giving Scheme is especially beneficial as it offers you the opportunity to opt into an annual inflationary increase, and they handle any associated gift aid, reducing the workload in the church office.

Spontaneous giving is those gifts you make as and when you see a particular need or have a prompt from the Holy Spirit. There will be times when you would like to give extra to St Luke's.

On a Sunday you can give extra via the offering plate or the card machine. Outside of our Sunday services you can give online at [www.thurnbychurch.com/give](http://www.thurnbychurch.com/give).

Each year there are particular opportunities you can specifically give to. Over the last few years, you have generously given towards new boilers, young people attending Luminosity, Bibles for those in year 6 at St Luke's school and for those attending Hungarton camp. There have also been donations towards Knighton to Ukraine, Open Doors, and Baca – all this before mentioning Café Fifty Five!

			
<b>Parish Giving Scheme</b>	<b>Standing Order / Bank Transfer</b>	<b>Online</b>	<b>Cash, Card, or Cheque</b>
<a href="http://www.parishgiving.org.uk">www.parishgiving.org.uk</a>	Account Name: St Luke's PCC Thurnby	<a href="http://www.thurnbychurch.com/give">www.thurnbychurch.com/give</a>	Cash in Sunday offerings
Parish Code: 190619142	Sort Code: 40-52-40	Click the "Give Online Now" button.	Contactless card machine in church
Paper form available from Ant Lount <a href="mailto:ant@thurnbychurch.com">ant@thurnbychurch.com</a> 07910843931	Account Number: 00022948		Cheques payable to: St Luke's PCC, Thurnby

### What should I to do now?

Please take some time to pray, think and decide what your giving to St Luke's Church will be for the next year and then do something about it by **completing and returning the enclosed giving form to the church office or complete the online giving form at [www.thurnbychurch.com/give](http://www.thurnbychurch.com/give) by Sunday 23rd June.**

With love to you all with thanks to God for his generosity and continued provision,

Rob Tom

Rob Miles & Tom Devas

Name:

Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

*Please complete the relevant sections*

**Section 1: I would like to start giving £\_\_\_\_\_ /week/month/month\* (\*delete as applicable)**

- The Parish Giving Scheme
- Standing Order
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2: I will keep my regular giving at £\_\_\_\_\_ /week/month/month\* (\*delete as applicable)**

- The Parish Giving Scheme (**with** optional annual increase)
- The Parish Giving Scheme (**without** optional annual increase)
- Standing Order
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 3: I would like to increase my giving to £\_\_\_\_\_ /week/month/month\* (\*delete as applicable)**

- The Parish Giving Scheme
- Standing Order
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 4: I would like to give a one-off gift to St Luke's of £\_\_\_\_\_ and will give this via**

- The Parish Giving Scheme
- Bank Transfer
- Card
- Cheque
- Cash

### **Section 5: Gift Aid**

I am a UK taxpayer and I would like St Luke's Church, Thurnby to treat as Gift Aid donations:

- All gifts on this form
- All future gifts (until further notice)
- All gifts made in the past 4 years

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Signature:

Date: