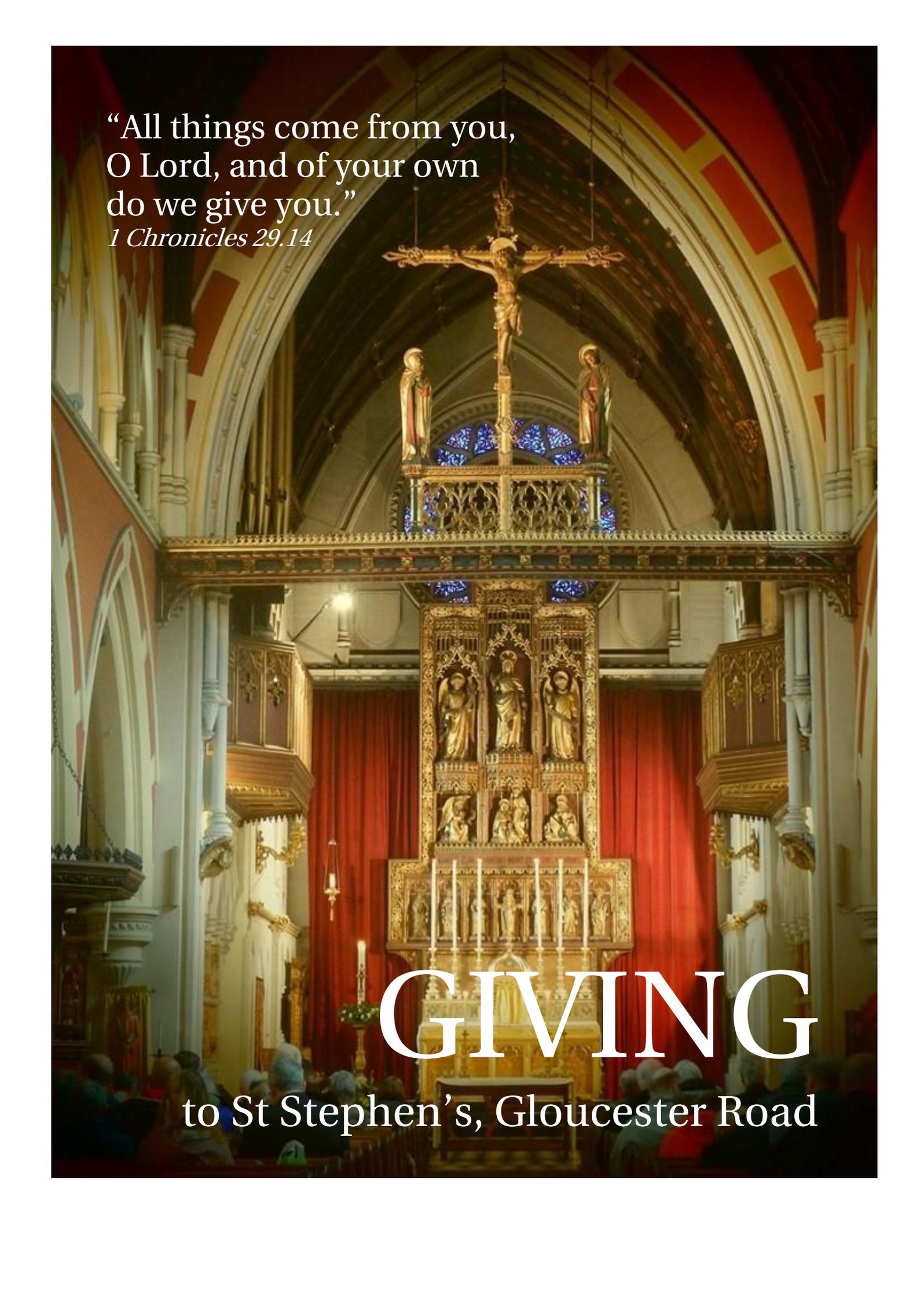


“All things come from you,
O Lord, and of your own
do we give you.”

1 Chronicles 29.14

The image shows the interior of a Gothic Revival church. At the top, a large wooden crucifix is suspended from the ceiling. Below it, two statues of figures in robes stand on a balcony. The central focus is an ornate, multi-tiered wooden altar with intricate carvings and several statues. The altar is set against a red curtain. The church's architecture features high, vaulted ceilings with red and white decorative panels. The overall atmosphere is solemn and grand.

GIVING

to St Stephen's, Gloucester Road

St Stephen's Gloucester Road is a place where we receive many blessings through the richness of liturgy, music and ministry, as we grow together in understanding and living out our faith in Jesus Christ.

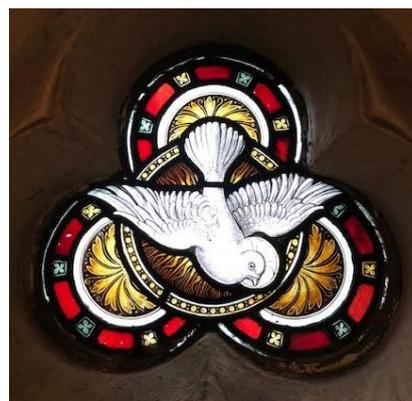
Our witness to the Anglo-Catholic tradition in the Church of England has a national significance, and for countless numbers of people our church provides space for sanctuary and renewal in the busyness of life.

This is an invitation for each of us to be a tangible part of this mission of faith, hope and love.

Giving in the Christian Life

Whilst our natural reserve means that money is a topic we avoid talking about in church many of the parables that Jesus tells invite us to reflect on the themes of money and generosity towards God and others. The Bible teaches us not to give God the 'left overs' from our resources, but to use a proportion of the gifts that we have received for his glory.

That's why we need to talk about money at St Stephen's now. What you give means that we can take our mission forward, and is a sign of your commitment to God's work in this place.



Generosity in the past and plans for the future

Those who have worshipped at St Stephen's before us were generous in their provision for the future of the parish, and we are richly blessed by being able to draw on the resources our forebears left us. This wise stewardship in the past means that we are now able to contemplate a programme of substantial renewal and repair to our glorious building. We hope to begin the first phase of this development work in the next few months with re-wiring and re-lighting the church, replacement of the sound system, refurbishment of the Sacristy with the provision of a further lavatory and new disabled access to the entrance.

We will only be able to carry out this work and further development in the future, if we all play our part now by meeting the ongoing daily running cost of St Stephen's. We gather in a beautiful building that we strive to keep warm and well maintained, our worship is enhanced by glorious music and vibrant ceremonial, we receive the ministry of our parish priest and we offer hospitality and fellowship.

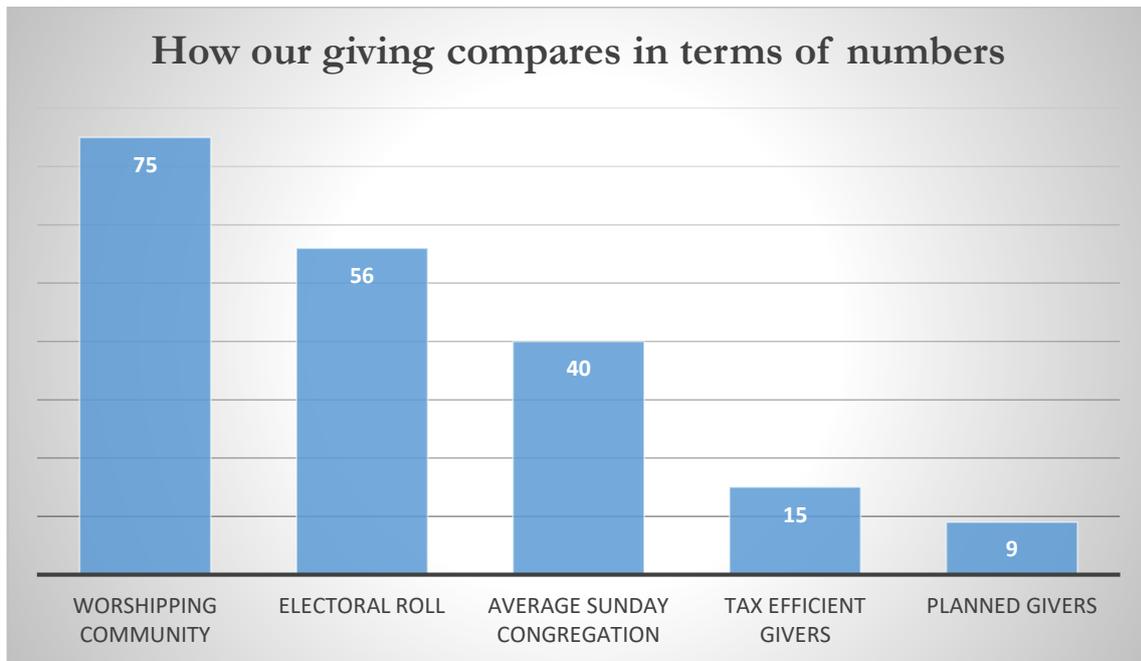
If we were able to cover the costs associated with worship ourselves we could deploy the assets we are fortunate to possess for the much needed improvements the building requires.

How much should I give?

St Stephen's is a place where everyone is welcome, regardless of how much they are able to give. We are grateful for all your contributions of time, talents and resources.

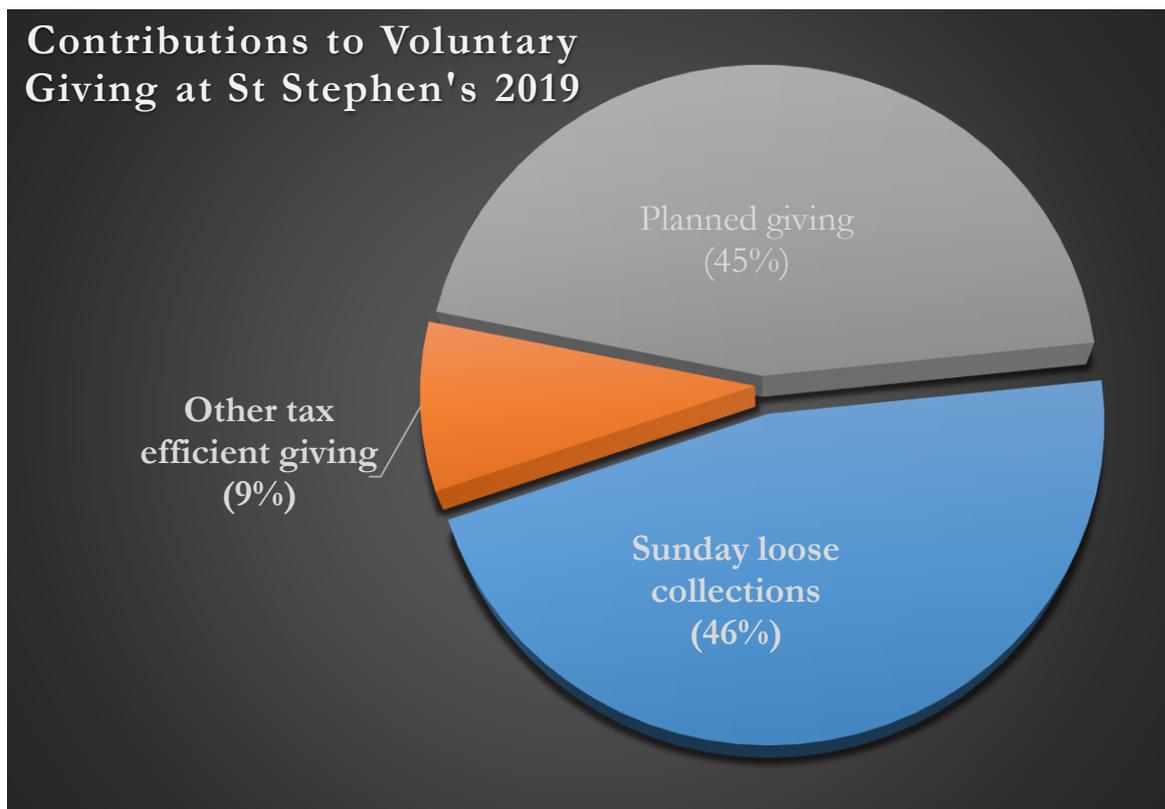
Jesus says "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt 6.21) There is no fixed amount for contributions to the ministry to the church. We are simply asked to think whether what we give to St Stephen's reflects the value we place on it, and how giving to the church equates with other areas of personal expenditure.

At present St Stephen's falls far behind other churches like us in terms of the proportion of regular members of the congregation who give by Standing Order, and the following charts describe how very few of us are committed to regular, planned giving.



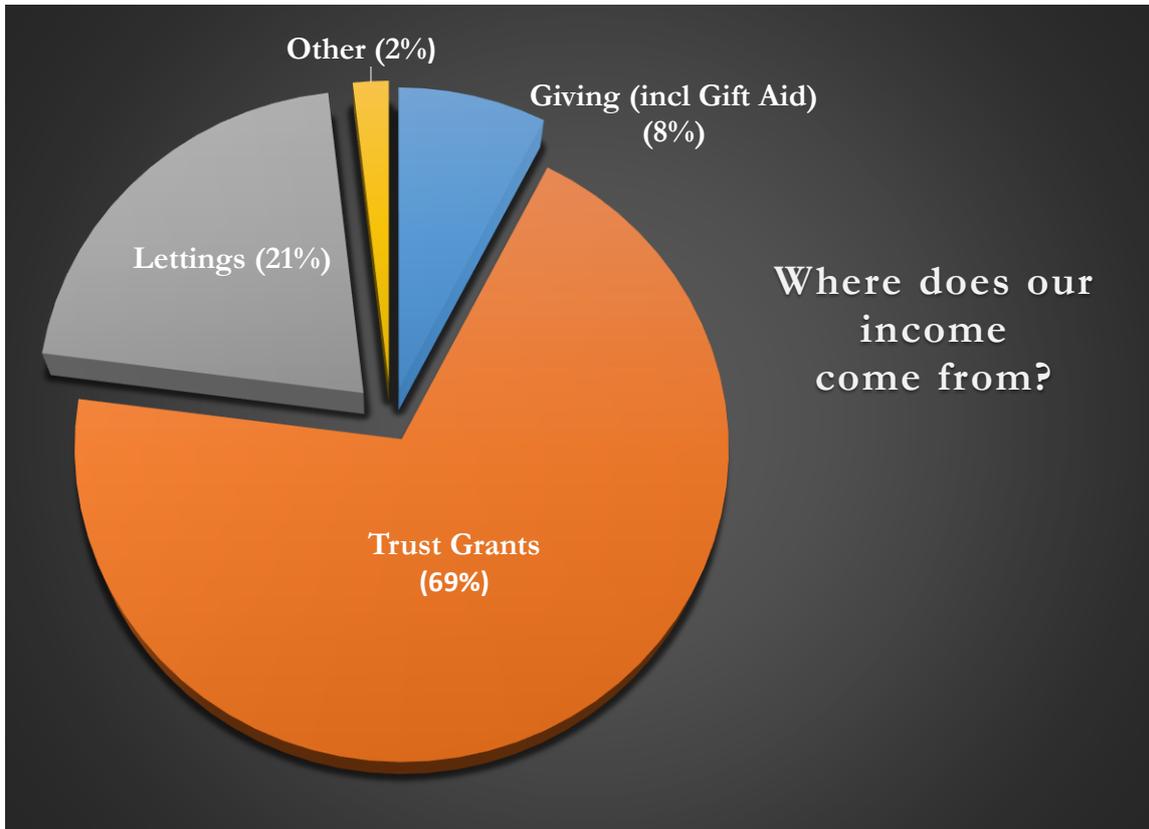
This chart shows that whilst we have around 75 people worshipping regularly at St Stephen's with, on average, 40 attending each Sunday, 15 people are giving tax-efficiently of whom only 9 are committed to Planned Giving.

Figure 1: St Stephen's Mission Statistics (Diocese of London 2019)



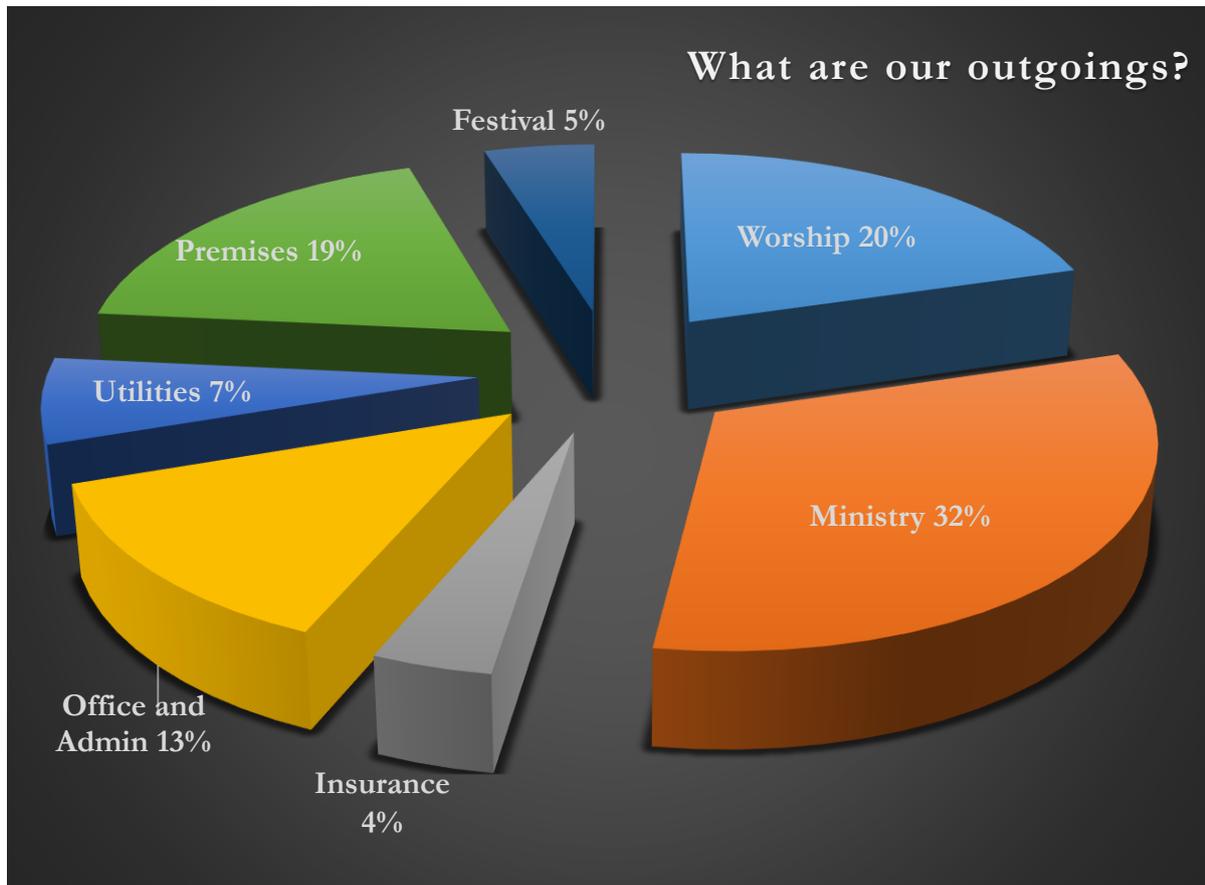
Planned Giving provides a regular income to the church, even when the person is not present in church; by being able to claim the Tax paid by the giver, the contribution to church income is further enhanced.

Figure 2: St Stephen's Annual Accounts 2019



Total Income £260,000

Figure 3: St Stephen's Annual Accounts 2019



Total Expenditure £257,000

Figure 4: St Stephen's Annual Accounts 2019

What can I do?

Planned Giving is the commitment to regular, pledged giving to the church through a Standing Order on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis. This is a vital stream of income because it enables us to plan our spending with greater confidence, and it means that you are able to support our ministry here even if you are not able to be physically present with the congregation on any particular Sunday.

Our church's vitality depends entirely on all of us contributing in a way that is realistic, regular and reliable. Let us cherish it and encourage one another by our generous support for its present and future life.

In short:

- ❖ Please consider giving to St Stephen's by Standing Order.
- ❖ If you already give by Standing Order please consider increasing your gift and complete the Pledge Card.
- ❖ The Pledge Card will guide you through the next stages, please complete sections A and B, or sections C and B if you are setting up your own online Standing Order.
- ❖ Please return the card in the envelope provided, by 1st March when it will be offered at the altar during the Solemn Mass. We will ask God's blessing and give thanks for our renewed commitment to the ministry of the church in this parish.
- ❖ Please feel free to talk to any member of the PCC if you have any questions relating to this Campaign.

Thank you

