

Fundraising Booklet

St Mary de Haura



St Mary
de Haura

Dear Friends,

We are deeply grateful, at St Mary de Haura, for the remarkable generosity of our congregation. By volunteering time, offering skills and supporting the parish financially, our congregation enables an active and varied ministry at the heart of our town.

But it is not just those who attend worship who can support us. As a town centre church, many people feel a sense of connection and belonging to St Mary de Haura. Tapping into this wider group of people is a key task of the Friends of St Mary's, but there are opportunities too for us all to reach out and form connections. In the course of building these relationships, we hope and pray that more people will see the value of supporting the church financially – especially as they become aware that we receive no government funding and that the church is currently running a financial deficit.

Fundraising is therefore key to the church's mission. It is a natural and integral part of our desire to build relationships within the community and to help people appreciate the value and significance of our church. Although not many of us would consider ourselves natural fundraisers, it is surprising what opportunities there are for all of us to make a contribution towards broadening the financial basis for our ministry.

In this spirit, I am delighted to commend this booklet to you, which has been produced by our Fundraising Group with the backing of the PCC. By offering low-key tips and practical suggestions, it aims to encourage a culture of fundraising in which all of us can share and participate.

Please do read through the pages that follow and see whether any of the ideas spark your interest. Please do also pray about whether God might be encouraging you to make a contribution.

With my heartfelt thanks for all you give to St Mary's,

Revd Andrew

Coffee Morning

A coffee morning can be a great social event and a way to meet the neighbours. Once one has plucked up the courage, a note through a few doors in the street can have a surprising effect in terms of the numbers that turn up. Afternoon tea works just as well. It can be kept very simple, with a few cakes, either bought or baked, and can be a boost to the neighbourhood in a smaller but similar way to a street party. If we are going to involve ourselves in fundraising, it is important that we make sure it is fun rather than a chore!



It is a good idea at coffee mornings – and at other events – to put out a donations bowl rather than asking for an admission price or selling a ticket.

Letting the neighbours know what the coffee morning is in aid of means that the donations bowl can get very good results, while not putting pressure on one's visitors.

**An event does not have to raise large sums to be helpful.
Smaller contributions also help with our costs.
All events can be advertised in the parish
newsletter if you would like.**

Barbeques

Barbeques can run much like a coffee morning and can involve neighbours and friends, or just the extended family (if you are lucky enough to have some nearby!). Late summer is a good time. It is not legal to sell alcohol at events related to a charity without a license but you can provide alcohol at a barbeque, provided you make it clear its cost is not part of any ticket price. A donation bowl is again a good way round this.

Boot Sale

Do you have items that you would like to sell and that you could take to a boot sale? There is also the option of putting a notice in the church newsletter asking for good quality items to take with you. The only trouble with boot sales is the early start! It can be quite good fun, if a few people go together, to get the chance to look around the other 'boots' – a thing that older children can enjoy. Some people make boot fairs their Sunday morning religion, but searching for 'boot fairs near me' on Google produces quite a number not too far away on Saturdays and even some on weekdays.

Crafts



Do you have craft skills? It can be rewarding to see a craft that you have been working on appreciated by a wider audience and to see it make some money. There are local craft fairs (again, a Google search will find them) or there is always the option of having a table at the monthly Farmers Market coffee morning in church.

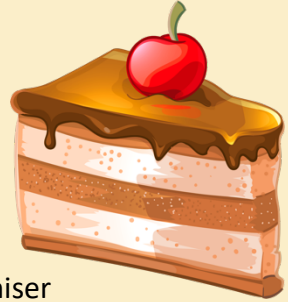
Remember, we are not asking people to raise vast sums at each event or activity! A range of small-scale activities together add up to a significant contribution.

If you have an advanced crafting skill, there is also the possibility of passing those skills on – either in your own home or at classes held in the Parish Office or the church. Such events are usually ticketed.

If you would like to use church premises for any event, please contact the Parish Office, the Churchwardens or the Vicar. They will do all they can to help.

Cakes

Cake sales have been very successful at St Mary's. The coffee time after church is a really good time to make cake sales and there are probably people in the congregation who would respond well to an appeal to stock a cake stall, say once a month. Cake sales need an organiser but should not otherwise involve too much work. A regular monthly income from an activity like this would mean that the church had some idea of what financial help it would provide throughout the year.



**If you can, make sure you fundraising
is something you would like to do,
not than something you feel you have to do.**

Sponsorship

There is a wide range of events and activities that can be sponsored. Sponsorship has the big advantage that it can attract support from family and friends as well as from the congregation. Members of the church are already providing a large proportion of our funding through regular giving, so it is important to encourage others to support us. By doing so, they are maintaining a living faith community in the heart of Shoreham. Many who do not come to church regularly appreciate the value of the church when they come for baptisms, weddings and funerals – as well as the value of St Mary's as a place of peace, quiet and serenity at the heart of the town.

**We should not feel embarrassed about asking those who
do not attend church regularly to help us to keep the
worshipping community in the centre of Shoreham going.
We are always there when they need us.**

Parties

Everyone likes a party (or almost everyone!). It is another fundraising opportunity that can be more about enjoyment than raising money. And having a party need not always involve a lot of organisation – a gathering of a few friends for a convivial get together would work fine. You could ask for donations or simply leave out a bowl for contributions, but either way, make clear where contributions will go. For those who feel comfortable about talking to neighbours and friends about our life together at St Mary's it can also be an opportunity to spread some good news, although this is often best done in the context of a conversation that arises naturally.

Something for Children



The children who come to church are integral to the life of St Mary's and fundraising events can be good fun for them too! As long as parents are involved and safeguarding procedures are followed, children can be involved in – and even help to organise! – an event, however small-scale it is.

Making sweets can be an enjoyable activity (as long as there are some sweets left over to sell!). Again, a stall at the end of a service or at the Farmers Market can work well. If you want advice on how to involve children in this way then Sarah, our Children and Families Worker, and Ash, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, would be very happy to help.

Making Use of the Churchyard

There have been some very successful coffee and cakes events in the churchyard in the summer. The more volunteers such activities have, the lighter the work! An event like this needs an organiser, but if you feel this is something for you, see if you can speak to one or two other people to help you to organise it, so that it's not all down to you.

Open Gardens

One idea that has previously raised a good sum for the church was an open gardens event that took place just before the Covid lockdown. Three or four gardens were opened to visitors for an afternoon; a couple of roads were leafletted with the news that visitors were welcome, and an address given where tickets could be obtained. One garden offered teas and cakes. The gardens concerned were not like exhibits at Chelsea Flower Show, just ordinary gardens that had been cared for. The enthusiasm from neighbours to see the gardens behind the houses in their street was quite remarkable. It was an enjoyable event and a few new friends were made. Events like this need an organiser, of course, but you will find that others are happy to help.



If an event needs a little practical support from the church – such as posters, invitations or photocopying – then please contact Louise in the Parish Office, who will be glad to help.

A Supper Chain

This idea does not need an organiser, just someone to start the chain! The idea is to invite someone or a couple to an evening meal on the understanding that they will invite someone else to a meal with them in due course. Once again, there are no tickets. The invitees just give a donation and go away resolved to invite someone themselves. Sometimes it can feel as though we only meet other members of the congregation in church, and a supper chain is a great excuse to get to know people better. This is a really good example of how fundraising can enrich our lives together as church members.

Auction of Promises

An auction of promises has been a good fundraiser in the past at St Mary's. We are a diverse congregation, with a variety of talents and experience. In an auction, members of the church undertake to provide a service, with clear limits about the time and resources used. There is no limit to the type of service that can be offered: a set time gardening, a craft lesson, taking the purchaser to a place of interest, a lesson in a sport or other activity – anything legal, decent and honest can be auctioned! This is an event which maybe needs a bit more organisation in advance – and the church itself could help with this – but the event is a lot of fun. And if you don't want to be the actual auctioneer, we will find someone with no shame to do the job. We all learn a lot about the talents and pass-times hiding in our congregation!



Over to You...

There are twelve ideas for raising funds in this little booklet – but well over 100 people are regularly involved in the worshipping life of St Mary's. So here must be a lot more ideas out there!

Hopefully this booklet has provided a spark of inspiration. No contribution is too small to make a difference. Although fundraising may seem unrelated to more important things – like fellowship, worship and pastoral care – it is precisely through the generosity of those who give financially to support the church that all these activities (and more!) can be sustained. Of course, nothing in this short booklet will work without the faith that underpins it. But do pray and ponder – how might you be able to support our fundraising efforts at St Mary's?