

PARISH OF ALSTON DOOR



**St Augustine's Church,  
Alston**

**'Meeting the Future Together'**

**Generous Giving, 2025**

*If you receive more than one copy of this, please pass one on to someone else!*

## ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH

St Augustine's has been at the heart of Alston for over 150 years.

It is open to everyone, every day as a place of peace and refuge, prayer and contemplation, and as a venue for arts and music.

### WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

With the other local churches we worship God, pray for you and try to share the love of Jesus.

We care for the church building and churchyard, for you.

**But that's not all: we are here for you ...**

- + For special occasions – not just Christmas, Easter and Remembrance, but christenings, weddings, funerals, anniversaries, blessing a new home ...
- + To work with and support your children's school and teachers
- + To visit those who are housebound, ill, lonely or in hospital
- + To deliver prescriptions
- + To talk to if you need a confidential listening ear
- + To organize social gatherings, concerts, events and exhibitions



### WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR US?

We are your church, and we want to help– but we need your help too.

**We need you to ...**

- + **Tell us what the needs are** – we can't visit someone in hospital if we don't know they are there, for example!
- + **Tell us what sort of services you would like**, and when.
- + **Help us practically** – could you offer some time or talents to help clean or maintain the church building, for example, or to help with admin, IT or book-keeping? Do you have other skills which you could offer?
- + **Help us to pay for all this!** A beautiful, spiritual building such as ours is not cheap to maintain, other activities also have costs attached, and we need to contribute towards the cost of having a Vicar in the parish.



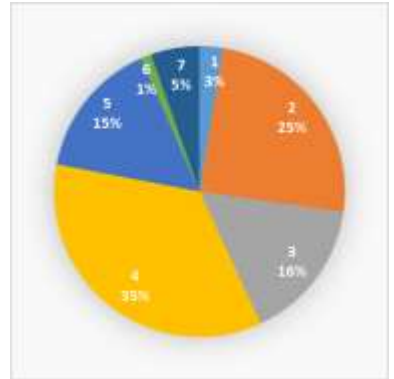
# THE FINANCIAL NUTS AND BOLTS

It costs around £75 a day to keep St Augustine's running!

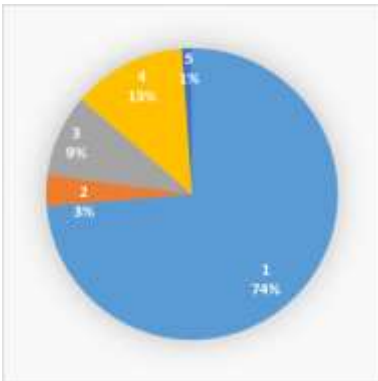
We rely on your donations: if you're already one of our generous supporters – thank you!

## Spending in 2023

1. requisites	£ 528
2. contribution to cost of a vicar	£ 5000
3. clergy expenses	£ 3208
4. utilities, insurance	£ 6521
5. maintenance, repair	£ 3123
6. charity donations	£ 236
7. organists	£ 1100



## Income in 2023



1. regular giving, collections	£ 14928
2. other donations	£ 703
3. weddings, funerals	£ 1856
4. Donations/ fundraising for Rekindling Project	£ 2556
5. interest etc	£ 223

**Our estimated annual cost for 2025 is £27,500. However our current expected income is only £24,000, leaving a shortfall of £3,500. We need to make up this gap to cover the regular costs of the church and pay for ongoing repairs.**



## **F.A.Q.'s**

### **Why should I help?**

The church is here for you: you have a right to a church wedding or funeral, to enjoy the church and churchyard for free, and to ask for our support when you need it. But this all costs money: if you don't help, who will?

### **Doesn't the church have pots of money already?**

No! It's true that the Church Commissioners in London have investments, used mainly to fund things like cathedrals, bishops, pensions... But every parish church – including ours – has to be financially self supporting. We have no funding from the central church, government or anyone else.

### **Won't you give away all our money to the diocese?**

No! Our six churches together contribute around £14,000 to the diocese (St Augustine's gives £5000 of that). In return, the diocese provides a vicar and other services, worth around £60,000. So the diocese subsidises us!

### **Didn't you get a big legacy recently?**

Yes, Joan Walton's generous legacy will help us make big improvements to St Augustine's over the next couple of years – making a huge difference for the next hundred years or more. But Joan's legacy is to be used for the development project, and is unlikely even to cover the full cost of the works – let alone pay for regular running expenses.

### **I can't afford very much – is it worth giving just a little?**

Yes! We're grateful for however much or little you can give – even small amounts add up! And if you can't afford much financially, perhaps you could spare some time to help?

### **OK – so how can I help?**

Please fill in the questionnaire that came with this leaflet. If it was delivered to you, someone will try to collect it in the coming week. Otherwise, please leave it in St Augustine's, or the place where you picked it up. Or if you prefer, you can fill in the questionnaire online. We'll get back to you with all the information you need.

### **Any more questions?**

Phone Mark on 01434 382558 or Andy on 07375 905246, or email [vicar@alstonmoorcofe.org.uk](mailto:vicar@alstonmoorcofe.org.uk)

*Thank you!*