

Dear church family,

WE ALL KNOW THAT GOD IS GENEROUS – everything we have, everything we are, comes from Him, including our church, St James. We stand, a tiny mustard seed of faith in times of social chaos and turbulence.

The importance of our strong faith and trust in God's heart for His world and plan for St James cannot be underestimated. With our unique closeness to the international community, we ask 'is God calling us to be, for our community' - 'a refuge for the needy in distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade for the heat?' (Isa

25:4). If so, we encourage each other to 'be strong and courageous' and do the work God has put before us.

The Bible encourage us with advice such as 'Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple is finished' (1 Chron. 28).

St James, our beloved church, is completely 'self'-funded. Each year we put our vision of 'Faith in Action' before God and then rely on His faithfulness to sustain us financially – through each one of us in the family of St James. He has never let us down. There is no financial support from the Church of England, nor from the British School.

St James is a pilgrim church. A faithful few have worshipped with St James since its beginning, others have come for a short time and then have moved on. Our constant challenge is to trust God to meet all our bills and financial commitments as we step out in faith. But our hope is not simply to remain as we are, but to increase our impact in the community and to become ever more effective and generous in building the Kingdom of God!

To this end, we would like to encourage everyone who attends our church, long-term or short-term, to develop a regular individual financial commitment. Every donation encourages us all and helps us to lay solid foundations for building God's kingdom. Every time we support a mission partner we are demonstrating confidence in God's provision. Every time we pay our contribution to the diocese, we are showing unity with the Church in the wider world. We are committed to using every euro we receive for the glory of God.



St James
VOORSCHOTEN

FAITH IN ACTION 40 YEARS

Stewardship Campaign 2019-2020

St James – a vibrant international English-speaking Anglican church serving the Leiden area, offering a spiritual home to people of all ages and from all over the world

In all financial matters St James is committed to good stewardship and transparency, and so we would like to answer any questions you may have, such as:

Where does our money come from?

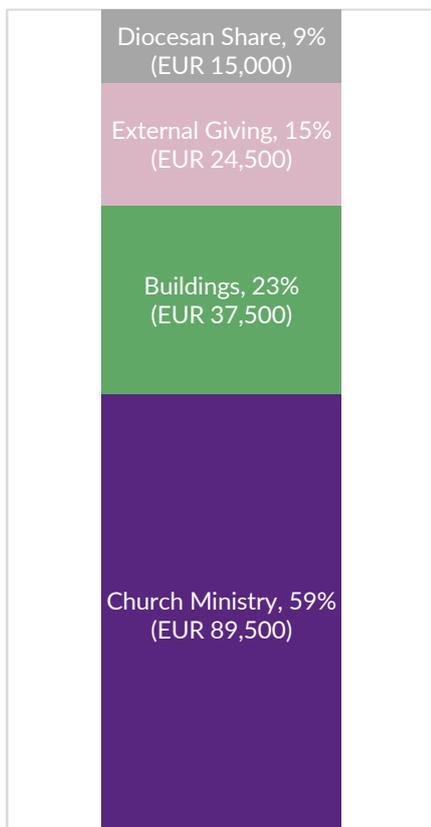
Our income last year was €167,000, of which 93% was given by church members via the Planned Giving Scheme. The other 7% came from miscellaneous donations, such as the Sunday service collection plate. As noted above, St James does not receive any outside funding (from the Church of England, the Diocese, or the British School) and is financially completely dependent upon its members.



Actual Income 2018
(Total: EUR 167,003)

Where does our money go to?

All of our income is reinvested to make ministry possible not only at St James, but also in the wider Anglican Diocese and throughout the world, for example through the work of our Mission Partners.



Budgeted Expenditure 2019
(Total: EUR 166,500)

Church Ministry: the majority of our income is used to enable the ministry of the church through the work of our Chaplain Ruan, our ordinand Matt, and our youth worker Mercedes. We also have various other ministry-related costs, such as printing, publicity, and administration.

Buildings: We pay a rental fee to the British School for our Sunday services, and we own two houses, where Ruan and Matt currently live.

External Giving: As a church we have committed to tithe on our income as a way of showing our support to the worldwide mission of the Church. This money is used to support our Mission Partners as well as other external organisations (such as Open Doors).

Diocesan Share: Like every church in the Diocese we pay a Diocesan share by which we contribute to the ministry of our Bishops in the Diocese in Europe.

How much should I give?

Everyone's circumstances vary, so there is no 'standard' answer to this question. Some follow the Biblical principle of tithing 10% (however that is calculated). Others give everything after they have paid their bills, others give what they have in their pocket on Sunday. Based on our current membership, the costs of running the church are 30 euros per person per week. An increase in giving will enable us to increase our impact as a church.

How can I give?

There are different ways of giving:



Our preference is for you to join our **Planned Giving Scheme (PGS)**. By joining the Planned Giving Scheme, you commit to making a regular (monthly or annual) donation per bank transfer to enable the ministry of St James in 2020. However, if your circumstances change during the year and you need to amend your pledge, please speak in confidence to our Treasurer, Mike Waters.

We encourage the Planned Giving Scheme because it is an aid to the discipline of regular giving, it is a tool which enables the church to plan its budget, and it has the lowest costs for the church.

To sign up, please complete the pledge form (attached). You can return it to us on Stewardship Sunday (24th November), when we will be giving thanks to God for his generosity. Alternatively, you can email it to Mike Waters (mike@mikewaters.com) or give it to one of the church wardens.

St James follows the Diocesan guidelines on privacy and data protection. A full statement is available at: www.stjames.nl/privacy.

Alternatively, you can donate in the following ways:



Bank transfer: into account NL86 ABNA 04668 61079, in name of St James Voorschoten



Cash: donate via the collection during our Sunday services.



Smartphone: use your smartphone to download the Givt app (available in the [App Store](#) / [Google Play Store](#)). Once you've opened the app, enter the amount you want to give and choose 'St James Voorschoten' from the list. More information is available at: <https://www.givtapp.net/en/>



Online: Go to www.stjames.nl/giving and click on the 'Make a Donation' button. You can give in different ways, including iDeal, credit card or PayPal.

You may also want to consider posthumously donating to St James by including the church in your will. Unlike most other forms of inheritance, posthumous donations are tax free. Please speak to Mike Waters for more information.

If you are a taxpayer, please ask for information about claiming a tax rebate on your giving. This is only possible for those who use the Planned Giving Scheme. More information is available (in Dutch) at: <https://anbi.nl/periodiek-schenken/>.

*Generous God, creator, redeemer, sustainer, at your table we
present this money, symbol of the work you have given us to do;
use it, use us, in the service of your world
to the glory of your name. Amen.*

Giving is an act of worship (2 Cor. 9:7-12), and, as God's people, we always begin with prayer. What is God calling us to do and to be? We do not wish to put any pressure on anybody for we recognise that the responsibility for funding His work is ultimately His. At the same time we are encouraged to display our faith in God and His love for the world through our sacrificial generosity. With this mind, we invite you to pray about your discipleship, your resources, your wealth and possessions and ask God how best to bless His work.

For more information about any of the above, please speak to Mike Waters.

Yours sincerely,

Ruan Crew (Chaplain)
Steve Hanford (Churchwarden)
Alina Stretton (Churchwarden)
Mike Waters (Treasurer)