



RIPON  
CATHEDRAL

GIVING IN 'THANKSGIVING'  
2025

**INFORMATION BOOKLET**  
FOR MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION



## A Message from the Dean

This booklet gives information supporting the Giving in Thanksgiving Stewardship Renewal Campaign which we at Ripon Cathedral are running during Lent 2025.

Lent is a time when we give attention to our discipleship. Central to living out our faith is a spirit of gratitude and the way we express that through our giving of time, practical support and money. As Christians, we believe that God is the creator of all that is. We would not exist, and we would have nothing, without his love and generosity.

As God has given generously to us, so we are asked to consider giving generously in response. While the Church of England asks its committed 'members' to give 5% of net income – and many of us do - we are very definitely in this campaign not 'telling' people how much they should be giving. That is for each of us to work out prayerfully and is dependent upon how able we are to give. And I am aware that for many meeting the cost of living still presents a real challenge.

I am grateful to all those who have helped to prepare the material to support this campaign, not least Anne Groves, our Chief Finance Officer, and Canon Andrew Kitchingman, our Canon Treasurer. The following pages simply set out how our financial support makes a difference to what we are able to do together through the cathedral in growing God's kingdom. The impact of our joint mission has become more apparent as we have seen growing numbers of worshippers, visitors, choristers, people attending events, and more people being served through our Welcome, Pilgrimage and Heritage, Education programmes, environmental projects, C3(Cathedral Community Connections) outreach, and rural engagement through Ripon Cathedral Rural Forum. Ripon Cathedral enriches the lives of a growing number of people.


Please, may I simply ask that you do 3 things:

first, read the content of this booklet and listen to the address (available on the website), if you weren't in the cathedral on 2<sup>nd</sup> March;

second, spend the weeks of Lent prayerfully considering how you support the cathedral;

third, **complete and return a response form before Passion Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> April.**

With my gratitude for your faith and support, and with every blessing



## Ripon Cathedral's finances. The key facts:

- ◆ In August 2023 Ripon Cathedral became a Charity
- ◆ Ripon Cathedral is entirely self-financing
- ◆ We anticipate the 2024 accounts will result in a small surplus after budgeting a deficit.
- ◆ The 2025 budget is showing a deficit.
- ◆ Our 5-year plan sets out to "cement in" that structural surplus sustainably for the future, so we can grow God's Kingdom.
- ◆ There remains risks, 2025 sees an increase in Employers National Insurance which has resulted in an additional cost of £31,000.

## INCOME

- ◆ We have significantly improved our investment income.
- ◆ 20% of our income in 2024 came from grants including grants from the Church Commissioners.
- ◆ Donations & Service Collections made up 25% of our income, £134,675 of which is from planned giving and parish giving by you, the congregation.

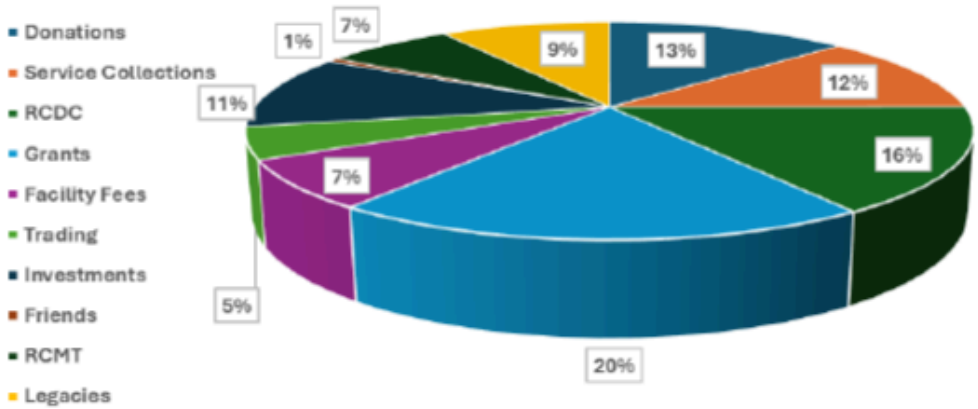
## EXPENDITURE

- ◆ The cost of our insurance has risen by 24% this year.
- ◆ The expenditure ministry figure excludes clergy stipends which are paid by the national or diocesan authorities
- ◆ The cost of gas was £20,000 higher than in previous 3 years due to a new gas contract, but our electricity was £9,000 lower than the previous year.

## FUTURE

We are aiming to increase our income from Planned Giving (including the Parish Giving Scheme) to help realise an overall increase in annual income from all sources of over £50,000 to sustain our operating surpluses and the delivery of our vision strategy, 'Growing God's Kingdom'.

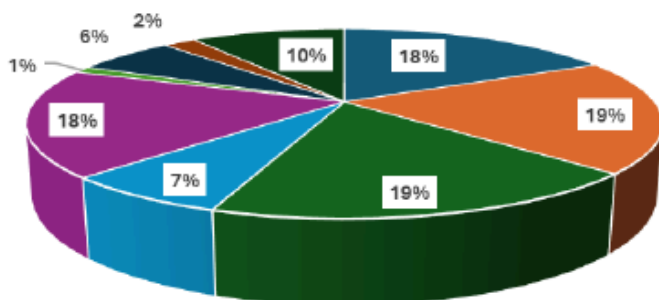
### Ripon Cathedral Income 2024



Donations	13%
Service Collections	12%
RCDC	16%
Grants	20%
Facility Fees	7%
Trading	5%
Investments	11%
Friends	1%
RCMT	7%
Legacies	9%

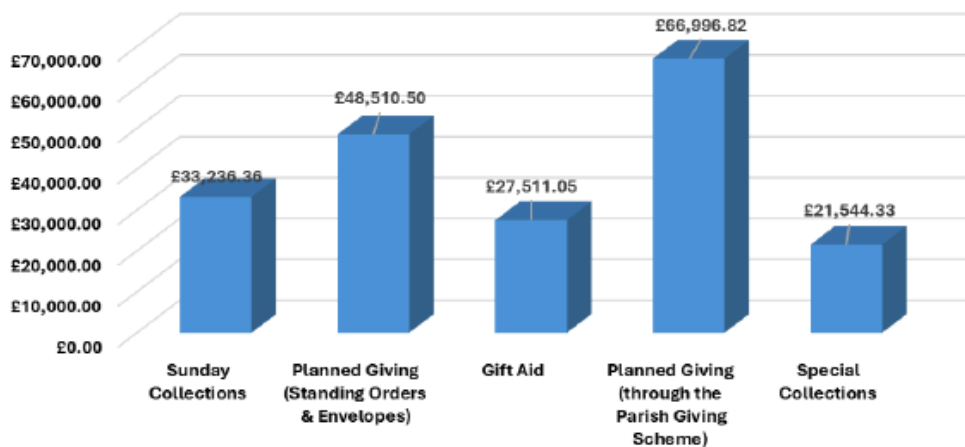
## Ripon Cathedral Expenditure 2024

- Ministry
- Music
- Estate
- Utilities
- Other
- Education
- Projects
- Marketing & Comms
- Development



Ministry	18%
Music	19%
Estate	19%
Utilities	7%
Other	18%
Education	1%
Projects	6%
Marketing & Comms	2%
Development	10%

## Ripon Cathedral Congregational Giving 2024



## Congregational Giving



## Growing God's Kingdom: recent highlights:

The cathedral's vision strategy is called Growing God's Kingdom. This helps to shape our service of the city, diocese and region; it enables us to set priorities which enable us to develop and grow. None of what we do would be possible without your support.

Recent highlights include:

Growing number of worshippers, an increase of 17.5% on 2014;

A flourishing Choir with over 60 choristers from 50 schools;

The highest number of visitors to the cathedral in a 'normal year', excluding 2018 and 2025; and highest takings in the shop;

In excess of the annual target of 1,000 school child visits for education modules;

Increase in charity partners which we support and with whom we work through Cathedral Community Connections (C3);

Expanding outreach to the rural region through Ripon Cathedral Rural Forum, with over 30 member organisations, as well as the additional Ripon Cathedral Rural Housing Forum and the Ripon Cathedral Rural Ministry Forum

Planning Application for Photovoltaic Panels (solar panels) on some of the cathedral's roofs — part of our expanding Carbon Net Zero Strategy

To listen to the address given by Andrew Kitchingman, Canon Treasurer and the Dean go to the cathedral website and click on the link at the top of the page that takes you to our YouTube channel.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### *Aren't cathedrals wealthy with historic wealth?*

Some cathedrals have large historic wealth. Ripon Cathedral does not have large resources but we do have some reserves which the Canon Treasurer has invested carefully. As you can see on page 4, this gives 13% of our income.

### *And don't we get financial help from English Heritage, the Government or the Crown?*

No, we get limited grants only from the Church Commissioners. We have had Covid grants during the pandemic but these are ending.

### *What do Local Authorities contribute to the upkeep and running costs of the cathedral as their civic church?*

Some do so, but we receive no assistance with running costs.

### *Surely if we can plan a new building, we cannot be short of money?*

The proposed new building will be funded from sources outside the cathedral.

### *What is the Parish Giving Scheme and why should we join?*

The Parish Giving Scheme (or PGS) is a tried and tested scheme used by 27 dioceses in the Church of England as a cost-free, easy administration system for planned giving to the Church. They receive direct debit giving, pass it to us and claim the gift aid (where that is possible). They then send regular reports to our Planned Giving Officer, Anne Groves, saving her the administration. 72 of us make our planned giving through PGS already.



I am not sure that my finances are secure enough for me to give a Direct Debit . Can I not continue to give cash when I attend a service?

Yes you can do that, but it increases the administration for our volunteers and makes our budgeting more difficult. A Direct Debit, like a Standing Order, can be cancelled or changed at any time by the donor simply contacting their bank. So it is totally within your control and you do not need to worry about your finances. A PGS Direct Debit has the additional convenience that you can index-link your giving, but only if you choose this option when you fill in the paperwork.

How do I go about taking out a Direct Debit via PGS?

Just tick the first box on the response form and return it in the envelope provided. Then fill in the PGS form, returning it to PGS direct.

I already give by standing order. Can I change this into PGS giving by Direct Debit ?

Yes, see the response form: indicate this is what you'd like to do. And complete the PGS form you have been given.

If we increase our income by at least £28,000, what will we spend it on?

An extra £28,000 would meet our increased utility costs and allow us to maintain our present level of mission. We really want to use our resources creatively, however, to grow God's kingdom by developing further our Cathedral as a vibrant centre of Christian worship, community and service. A greater increase in income would enable this, not least in expanding our work with young people and sharing our heritage with new generations and more visitors.

## OTHER WAYS OF GIVING

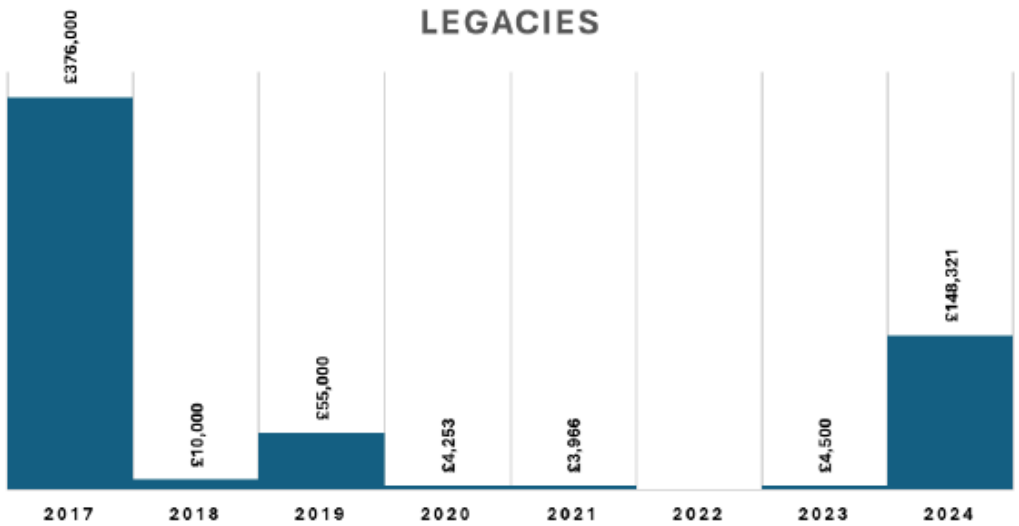
These are other ways of giving that many people use in addition to congregational planned giving as ways of supporting the cathedral's mission. Our Lenten Planned Giving campaign is focussing on the support provided by congregation members as part of their discipleship. You, however, may be interested to learn more about some of the other giving schemes. There is more information on the website and brochures in the cathedral. Please, do ask for a conversation, if that would be helpful.

**Patron Schemes** - these operate at different levels of giving, ranging from the St. Hild Patron, donating £200 – per year, to the joint St. Wilfrid Patrons donating £1,500 per year, and the St. Peter Lifelong Patrons of £12,000 (a single donation).

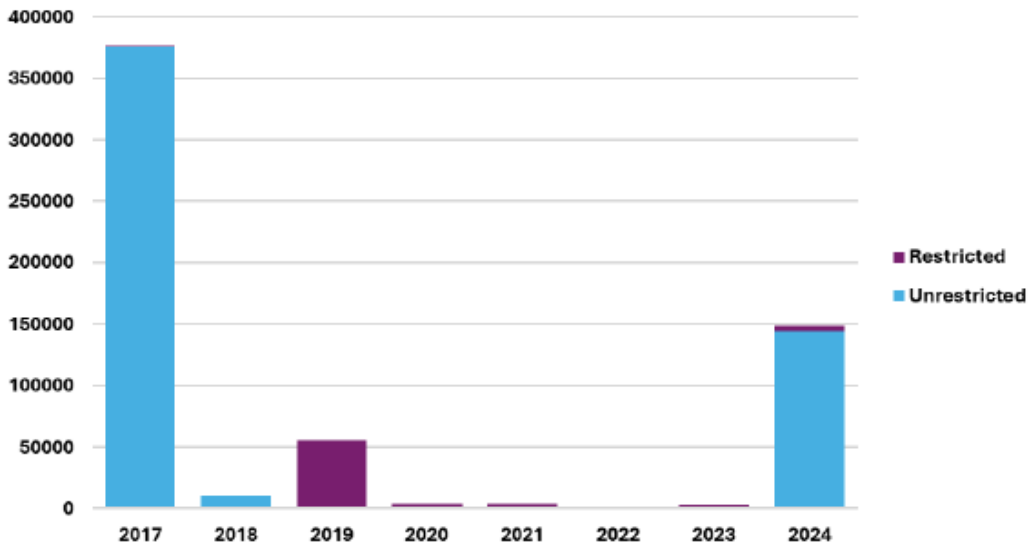
**Legacies** - many people wish to sustain the cathedral's life and ministry beyond their lives in this world by leaving a gift in their wills. The generosity of those who have lived and died before us is clear for all to see in the fabric and activity of the cathedral - we all benefit from it. Income from legacies makes a huge difference to what Chapter can achieve - and there are no shortage of maintenance and enhancement projects which we could develop if we have the additional income. We have shared with you the cost of running the cathedral, but this ignores the fact that we would like to be able to spend an additional £150,000 on maintenance each year. The graphs opposite show the difference legacies can make to Chapter's income.

**Gifts for particular projects or purposes** — Many people give one-off gifts to support a particular project or a certain dimension of the cathedral's life, such as its music or education programmes. Significant gifts were given to make possible the development work of Ripon Cathedral Renewed, and much more was pledged to enable the essential work of providing much needed facilities for the cathedral and developing the Neighbourhood Plan's aspirations for a Cathedral Quarter. It is frustrating that these plans are on hold until we are clear about the Council's plans and aspirations.

## LEGACIES



## Legacies Unrestricted & Restricted



## What are we asking you to do?

- ◆ Please read this leaflet
- ◆ If you weren't in the sung eucharist on 2nd March, you may wish to listen to the presentation given by the Canon Treasurer and the Dean on YouTube (see link on page 7)
- ◆ If you'd like more information contact one of the people listed below
- ◆ Please, consider prayerfully in Lent what your generous response to God's generosity to you might look like.
- ◆ Please complete the enclosed response form.
- ◆ Please return it **by Passion Sunday, 6th April** to the cathedral office (at the address on the envelope) or to the box by the notice boards in the south transept.

If you are making a commitment to donate via the PGS system (or to convert your existing standing order to a PGS direct debit) you return the PGS form direct to them. Please send us the pledge form. If you are making a commitment to give by planned giving envelopes and are joining this scheme, a set of envelopes will be sent to you.

Thank you for being part of the Cathedral community and for taking the time to make your response

These members of the Church Growth Committee are happy to answer questions:

**Liz Thomas** Church Growth Committee

**Fiona Pearman** Churchwarden and Church Growth Committee

**Richard Knockton** Churchwarden and Church Growth Committee

Please contact via the Cathedral Office Tel: 01765 603462