



# GIVING

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St Thomas' Newcastle  
2024



THIS BATH  
MADE FROM  
100%  
RECYCLED  
PLASTIC  
BOTTLES

*we have been*



# OUR VISION

## Following Jesus

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. At the core of everything we do is a deep commitment to following Him. We love seeing peoples' lives transformed when they encounter Jesus, and we celebrate this transformation with regular baptisms.

## Building Community

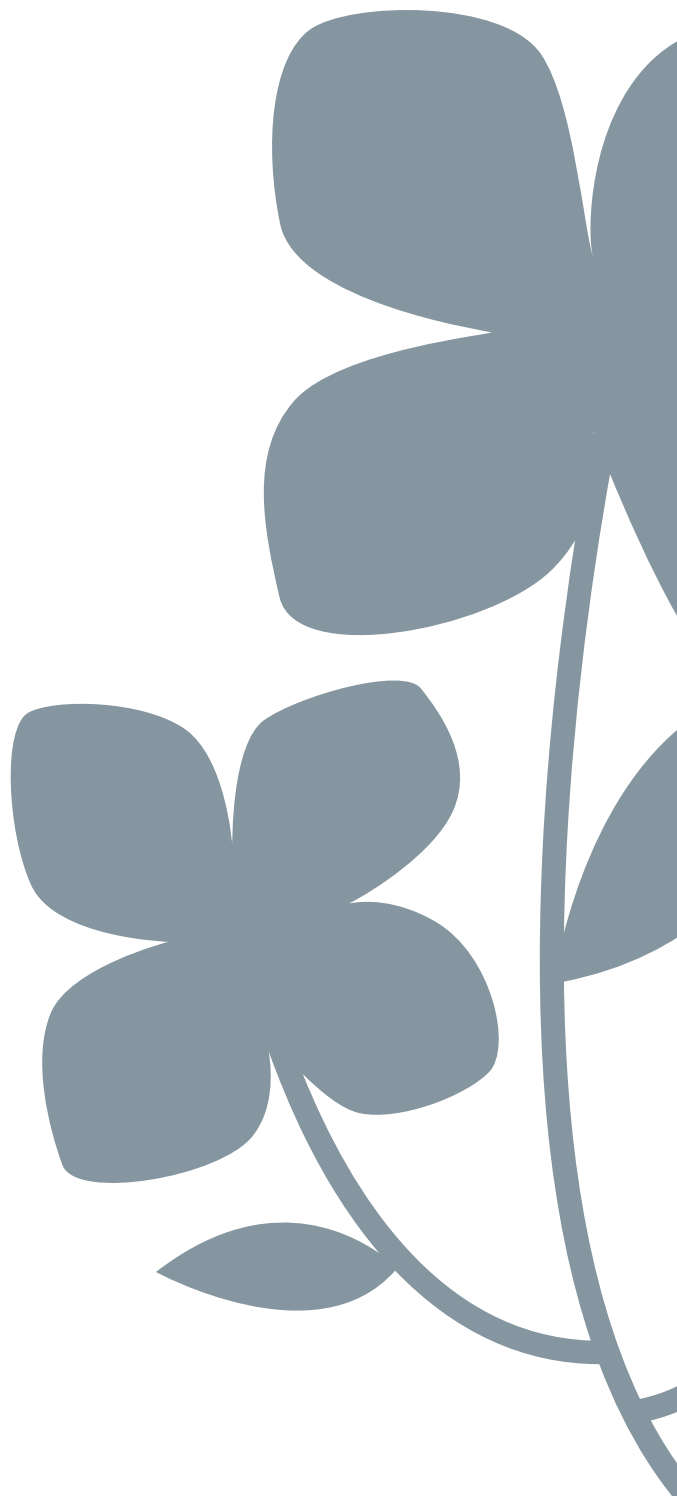
The church is not a social club – it is a family where we belong. We value commitment to one another, serving one another, and creating spaces to enable deep relationships to flourish.

## Loving Newcastle

We are praying for God's kingdom to come in the North East, as in heaven. We exist to serve the city and to proclaim the good news of Jesus in the power of the Spirit, so that we might see the region transformed.

## Church Planting

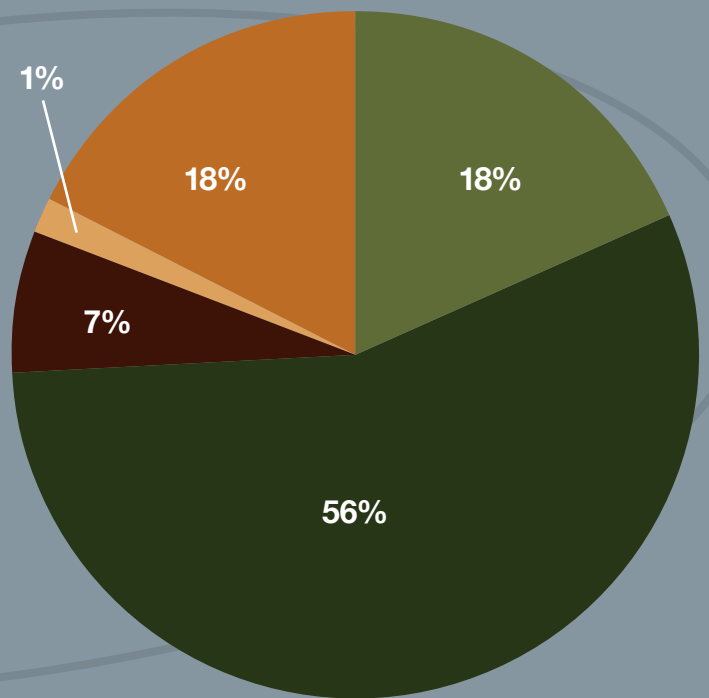
As the Resource Church for the Diocese of Newcastle, we are called to resource mission and ministry across this region by planting and revitalising churches across the North East – for the sake of God's kingdom.



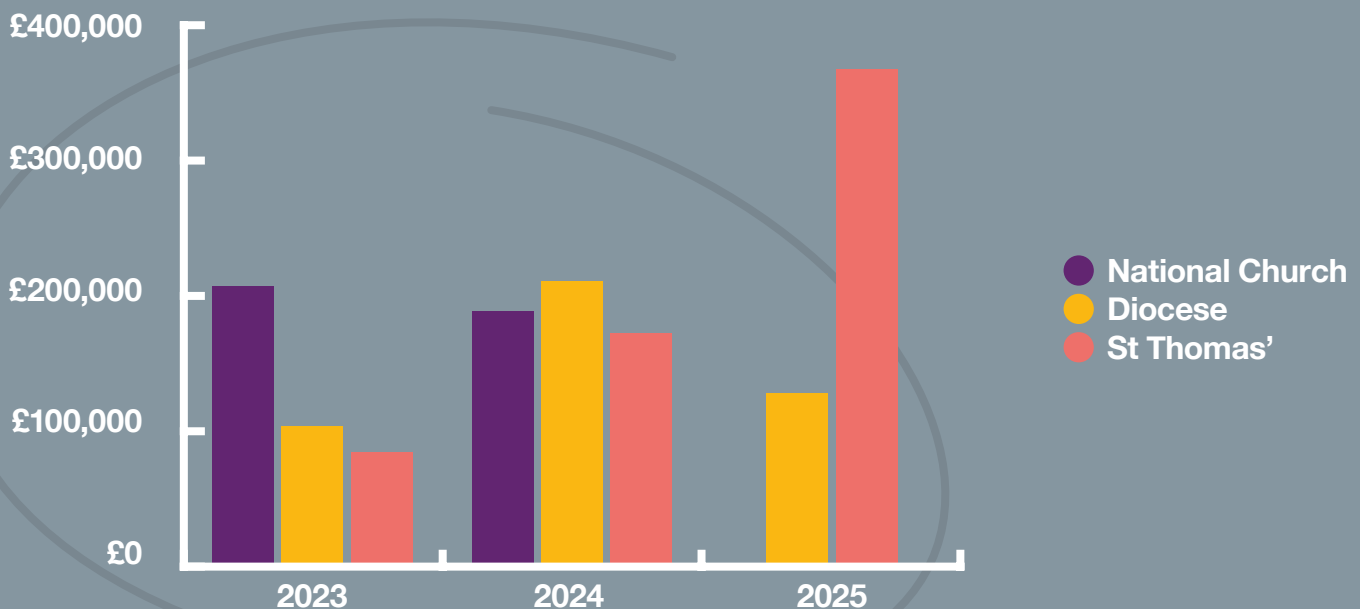
# FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

2023 Spending  
**Total: £396k**

- Clergy
- Staff
- Mission & Ministry
- Building
- Running Costs

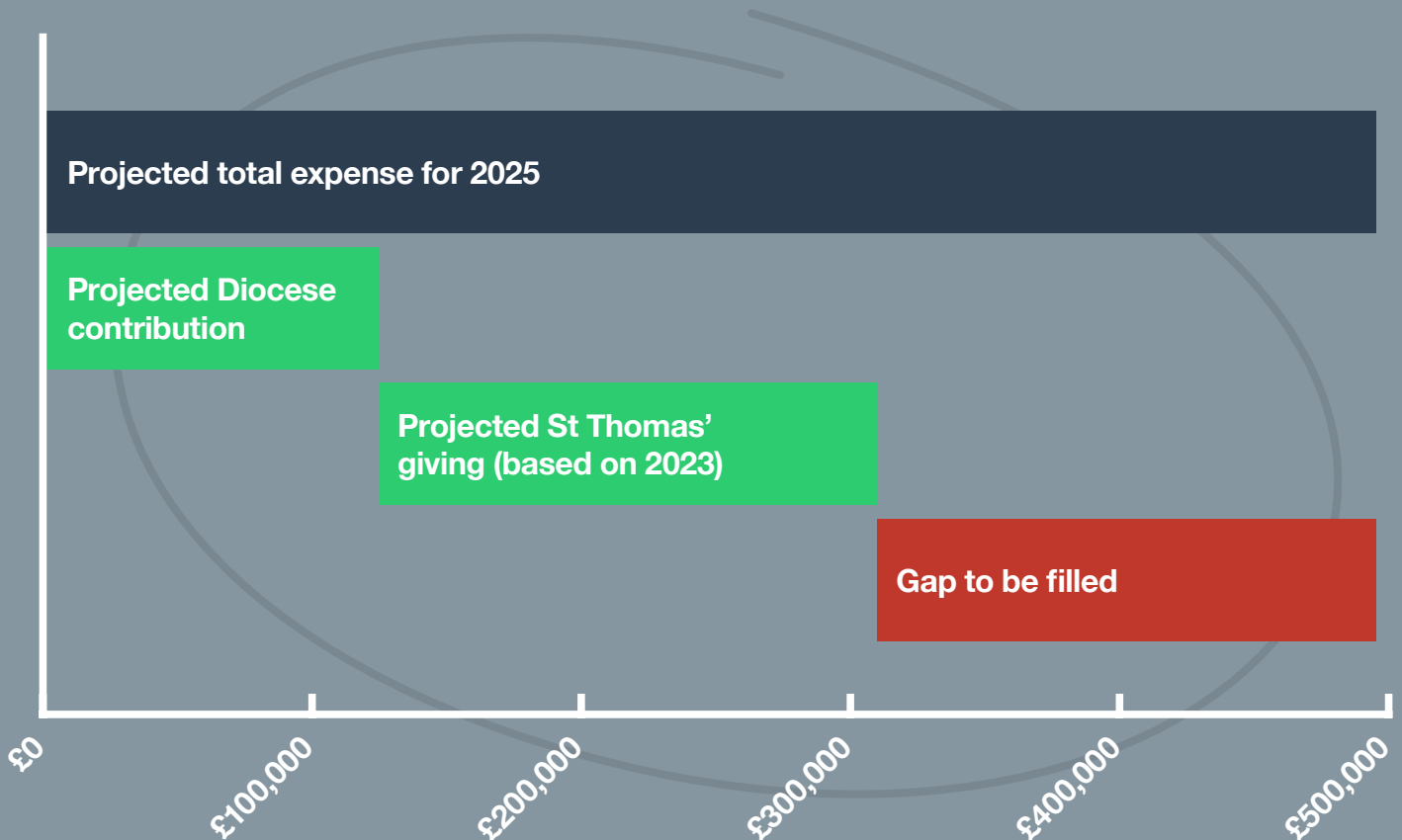


Where does our funding come from?



# So what is the funding challenge?

When St Thomas' was first launched back in 2019, we were given five years of funding from the Church of England to enable St Thomas' to be planted and to grow as a resource church. This funding will stop at the end of 2024, which leaves a financial gap that we need to fill.



To continue with our existing resourcing levels, we need to raise around **£370k** in 2025. This requires us to double our total unrestricted annual giving from **£185k** (in 2023) to **£370k**.

There are around **400** people who regularly worship with us, of which there are currently **89** regular givers, contributing a total of **£185k** per year. This averages **£40** per week per giver (some give more, some less). If a further **300** members of the congregation regularly gave **£12** per week (that's **£51** per month or **£615** per year) we would be financially sustainable.

Our reserves include existing funding that is ring-fenced for:

- The Eden Team in Byker, until May 2028
- St Luke's, where we recently sent a planting team

To find out more about our finances, scan the QR code or visit [stthomas.church/finance](https://stthomas.church/finance).





# ISAAC'S STORY

"I have been encouraged to give to the church since I was young. My parents used to give me one pound every week so I could buy sweets or save up for a new toy. This pound was mine to spend as I chose but there was an expectation that I would be generous with what they had given to me. Every Sunday at church I would put 10p into the offering - one tenth of what I had. This helped me to build a discipline of giving, which has stuck with me as I have grown.

Counter-intuitively, giving away money helps me not to worry about how much I have or do not have. I trust that God will provide what I need. And he always has.

I believe that the act of giving is practising both obedience and kindness. In my offering I am joining in the good work that the church does, while recognising with gratitude everything that has been given to me."

**Isaac Porter**

*University student & church family member*

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# PLAYING OUR PART



We continue to be amazed by what God is doing in this city, as we witness lives being transformed and our church continuing to grow for the sake of the kingdom.

2000 slices of pizza and invitations to try church were given out to new students during Freshers' Week last year. It was a huge blessing to connect with so many freshers, and we saw many of them come back to try a church service and learn more about Jesus.

We enjoyed other opportunities to connect with those in our city by offering refreshments, hospitality and encouragement to runners and supporters of the Great North Run, as well as giving out 400 slices of pizza and invitations to try church on the evening of the first Champions League match at St James' Park for twenty years! Further to this, we've loved opening our church building for Easter and Christmas Cafes, offering festive hospitality, activities for children, and opportunities to receive prayer. We've heard incredible stories of healing, breakthrough and salvation as a result.

A particular highlight has been celebrating with two men who felt compelled to visit St Thomas' one Sunday evening, met Jesus during the service, and both of them got baptised the very next week!

Our communities of children, youth, students and young adults have each seen God moving in powerful ways amongst young people. Tiny T's, our midweek toddler group, has seen significant growth and a number of families have started coming to our Sunday services to continue exploring their faith. Youth Night

regularly sees dozens of young people gather each week to worship God, learn from the Bible, and minister to one another in prayer - all whilst having loads of fun. As well as a thriving group of university students, we also have a growing community of young professionals who are developing deep, long-lasting friendships, encountering Jesus together, and supporting one another to be ambassadors of Christ in their workplaces.

We're especially excited about two recent developments. Our Eden Team in Byker is beginning to take shape, and we're already hearing some fantastic stories of the good news of Jesus being shared with the wonderful people of Byker. We're also thrilled to have sent a grafting team to St Luke's Church in Spital Tongues to help revitalise mission and ministry in that part of the city. The team were commissioned at St Thomas' in December 2023, and on 7 January 2024 Bishop Mark was at St Luke's to celebrate the start of this new adventure. We're grateful to those of you who have given financially to help support what God is doing at St Luke's.

If you support St Thomas' financially, thank you so much. Your generosity reflects the beauty of the gospel. Just as Jesus gave everything on the cross for us, we too give back to Him. Our selfless giving enables us to continue to plant churches as we follow Jesus, build community and love Newcastle.

If you don't yet give to St Thomas', perhaps you would prayerfully consider starting? Turn the page for all the details of how to give.

# HOW TO GIVE

## 1. Pray

When it comes to giving, it's essential to **begin in prayer**. We're not all called to give the same amount, but we are all called to be generous. Spend some time listening to God about what He may be asking you to give this year.

## 2. Pledge

Once you've prayerfully reached a decision about how much to give, it's helpful to **fill out a pledge form**. This enables us as a church to plan well, forecast our finances for the coming year, and steward our giving and receiving responsibly.

## 3. Practice

The final step is to put this all into practice! The best way to give is to set up a monthly direct debit, whatever the amount may be. **Scan the QR code** below or visit our website to set up regular giving or to donate a one-off gift. Thank you - we are so grateful for your generosity.

[stthomas.church/give](https://stthomas.church/give)

