



St Helen's
Bishopsgate

Partner with St Helen's



Supporting our ministry financially

Dear church family and friends,

It is that time when we ask members of the St Helen's church family, and others keen to support the ministry, to recommit to partnering with us financially in 2019.

First and foremost, the gospel of Jesus advances through God's word being proclaimed, in the power of the Holy Spirit, through the everyday ministry and mission of our church family.

Our monthly prayer meetings, and the prayer diary, are always an eye opener for us about the range of ministry opportunities and the impact of the work which God has given us to do, here in London and across the world. This is wonderful, though it also brings tremendous responsibility.

Everyone in the church can bring their gifts, time and prayer to serve the advance of the gospel. We hope that most members of the church can also be financial partners in the work by giving to St Helen's, however much or little you can give.

As you pray for our financial resources in 2019, please pray for the whole breadth of God's work we are involved with, and the joy of being able to play our part in supporting it.

On the following pages you will find a reminder of some of the ministries that your giving supports, how the money is used and why this is only possible because of the widespread support and generosity from the church family and friends.

William Taylor, Rector

Jeremy Anderson, Treasurer

Funding our ministry



6pm Sunday meeting at St Helen's

We know committed Christians have many calls on their money. People involved in midweek ministries may have home churches to support, others may be supporting people training for ministry, mission partners, camps and many other good things.

We ask everyone who is an active member of St Helen's to consider supporting us as financial partners as well.

Almost all our income comes as gifts from the church family and supporters of the ministry. God has provided wonderfully for us over many years and we are thrilled by the generosity of so many people.

We will need about £46,000 per week to run the ministry in 2019. Inflation and staff changes mean costs will be up about 4%.

If 1,000 of our supporters gave £200 per month (£6.50 per day) that would cover our ministry expenses.

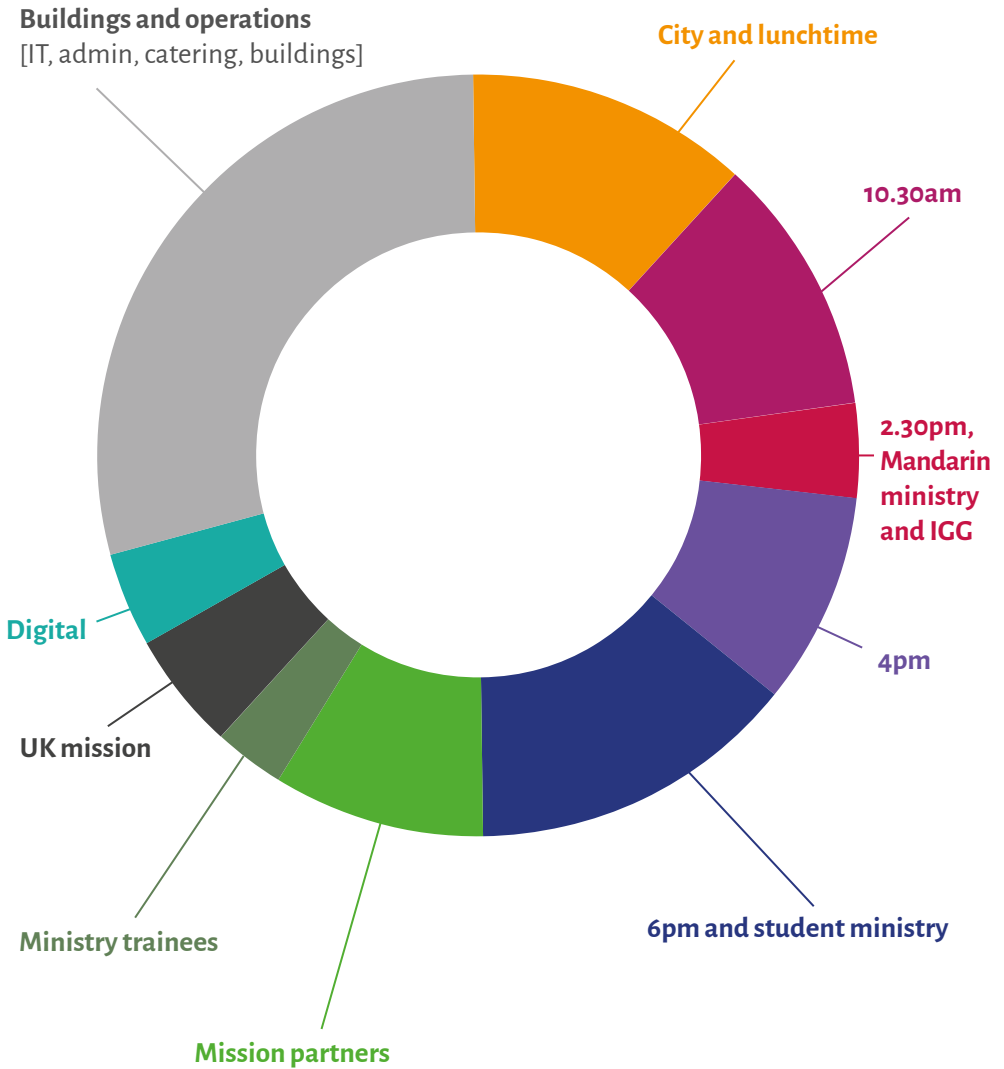
In practice, regular gifts to the ministry range from £10 per month to £10,000 per month, as people give according to their means.

Last year our gifts came from around 700 supporters. While the average gift was £100 per month, the size of our larger gifts brought us more or less to a balanced budget.

If you consider yourself a committed member of our midweek or Sunday ministry and mission activities, please do pray about continuing (or starting) to partner with us financially in 2019. We need your support, whether you can give a little or a lot.

■ How we spend our money

The chart below shows how we spend your gift. About 70% goes to our major ministry areas. About 30% goes on running our church and office buildings and on our ongoing operations to support our collective ministry.



■ This is an illustrative breakdown. Full details can be found in the Financial Report and Accounts.

London and UK mission

This chart gives you a picture of much of the local ministry going on each week

6pm

Evening meeting, RML Mark, RML Romans, RML Overview, 121 Bible reading, walk up evangelism

Other ministries

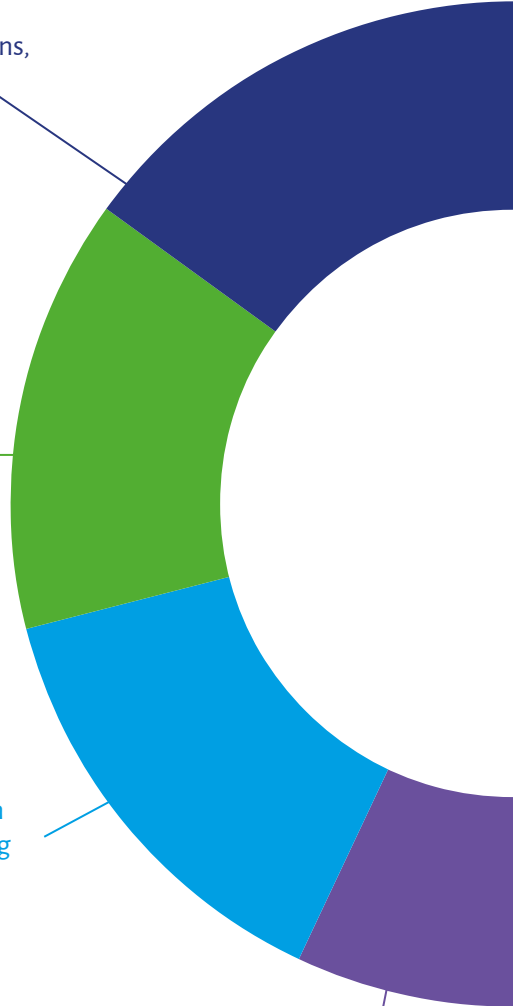
Christianity Explored, Youth RML, Little Pickles, Ministry Trainee scheme, music, Women on Wednesday, marriage foundations course, parenting day, prison ministry

Students

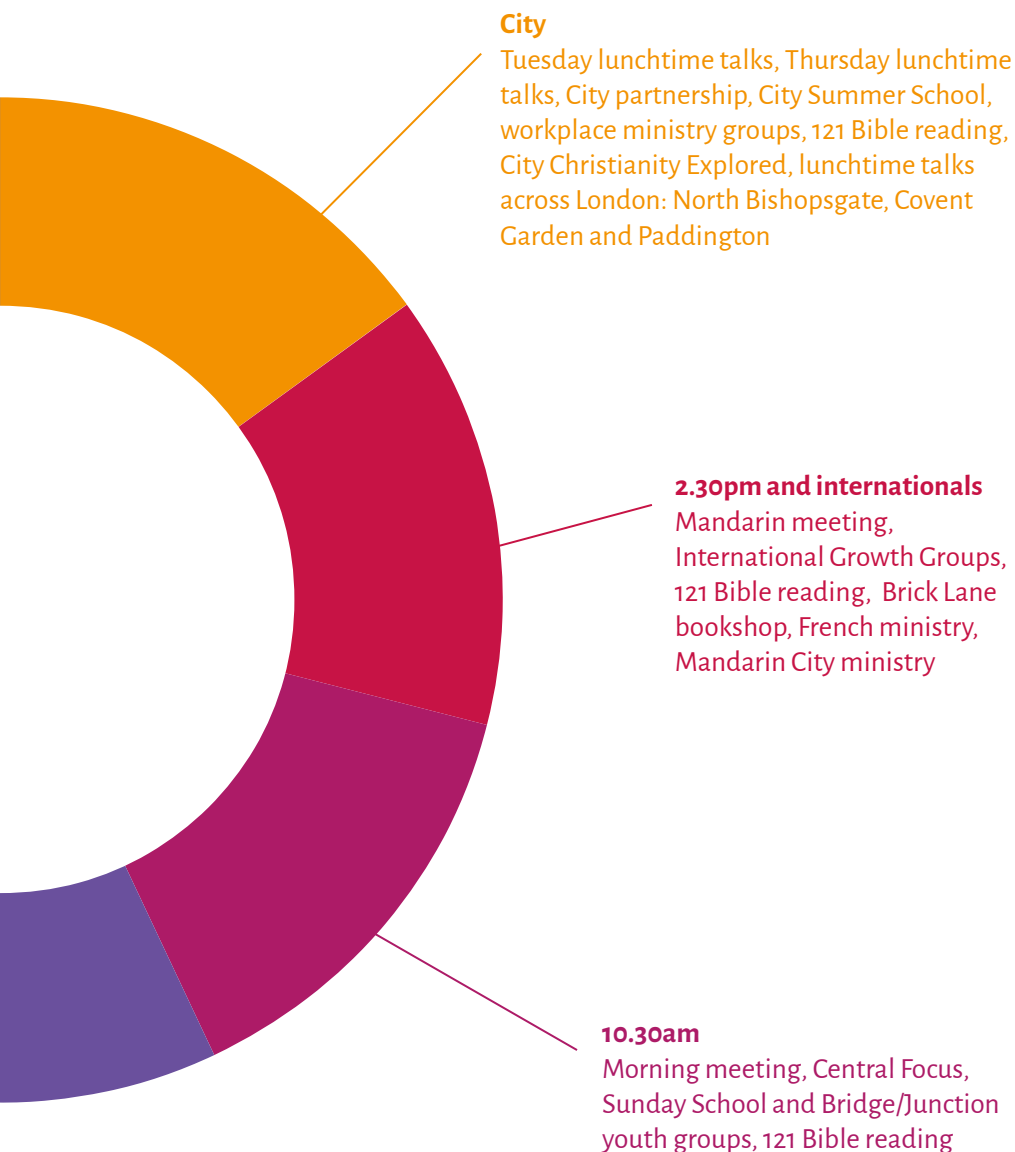
Campus outreach, Student RML, mission weeks, student suppers, 121 Bible reading

4pm

Afternoon meeting, RML Luke, RML Romans, RML Overview, Sunday School and Bridge/Junction youth groups, 121 Bible reading



We are all about knowing Jesus and making him known



Building up and sending out



Over 150 former associates at a reunion in November 2018

■ Small group ministry

Our small group ministry involves around 1,000 people. We resource our small groups because they are such a valuable environment for people to explore Christianity, be transformed by God's word, and be disciplined and encouraged. Week by week people study the Bible under the teaching and leadership of our staff teams and group leaders.

■ Ministry training

Since the Associate Scheme, recently renamed Ministry Training, started in 2000, 265 people have spent between one and three years training for Bible-teaching ministry. 185 have gone on to further training or full-time paid ministry in the UK and internationally, or are married to someone who has. Currently 49 are leading churches and 66 are serving as assistant ministers, with many others leading in parachurch ministries or in overseas mission work.

Currently, 30 men and women are being trained with us this year.

The UK is in desperate need of more gospel-proclaiming churches; this has proved an excellent way for potential future workers to be trained as Bible handlers and in ministry. We resource this initiative through financial support for individual trainees, helping with training costs and through dedicating staff to support their training.

Could you help support a ministry trainee?

Our ministry trainees find it increasingly expensive to live near St Helen's. If you have a room you could offer for free or to rent at a reduced rate then this would be another practical way you could support the ministry.

■ Planting churches

As one of the UK's larger churches we have a responsibility to support mission throughout the UK as well as on our doorstep. One way we do this is through church planting and by working with other like-minded churches across the UK to support church growth and church planting. This year Bishopsgate North has started as a midweek lunchtime talk led by Richard Dryer, who also leads the midweek Paddington Talks and is pursuing planting a Sunday church in the area. We've also supported six churches in Hull, Lancaster, Rochdale, Toxteth, Worcestershire and Warwickshire in 2018.

■ International mission

The Lord has placed us strategically in one of the world's great global cities. We have amazing opportunities with international people when they are in London for a period. We work to evangelise and train people to be effective gospel partners when they return home. We currently run small group studies in English, French, German, Japanese and Mandarin; we hope to start in Spanish soon.

We have had people coming to train with us from all over the world including Bangladesh, China, France, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Nigeria and Singapore.

Over the last 20 years this has built strong bonds with people, churches and missionaries across the world. We continue to encourage our brothers and sisters around the world by helping with preaching conferences, short term missions and prayers.



St Helen's mission partners, past and present

■ Digital

Our website supports our church family and has served Bible teaching resources to people in over 100 countries. We have made an investment in this area in 2018 and hope to build on that work in other areas, including our apps.

How to partner with us



4pm meeting

■ Prayer

Please pray about how the Lord wants you to use all your gifts, and the money God has given you in his service. Join with us in giving thanks for all that the Lord has done and continues to do through the ministries of St Helen's. Please pray:

- about how the Lord wants you to use all your gifts, and the money God has given you, in his service
- the number of givers increases to 1,000
- the median gift size increases to £200 per month

■ Giving

Regular giving: if you can commit to a regular weekly, monthly or quarterly gift, that helps our planning and makes it easier for you. Please partner with us in this way if you can.

One-off gifts: if you prefer to give occasionally, or top-up your regular giving then we are always delighted. About 40% of our income comes from these one-off gifts and our church would not be able to operate without them.

Online giving and occasional gifts: please give via bank transfer if you can since as we receive the full amount. We can also accept gifts via credit/debit cards online through our website.

If you are a taxpayer, please tick the Gift Aid box: the UK government wants to encourage charitable giving, so operates the Gift Aid scheme. This allows us to increase your gift by 25% (and allows you to reduce your tax if you are a higher-rate taxpayer).

You can find a giving form enclosed, or you can access or download one online: www.st-helens.org.uk/get-involved/give/



■ Employer giving schemes

Some employers support Give As You Earn. This reduces your tax on any gifts at source; we are eligible to receive gifts as a charity. Some employers also operate a matched giving scheme for which we may qualify and can increase your gift.

■ Gifts from trusts

We are delighted to receive gifts from charitable trusts and are also registered with Stewardship and CAF for giving via those organisations.

■ International gifts

Our bank details can be found on the giving form. You can also give online through our website, where multiple currencies are accepted. If you are a US taxpayer, we can arrange tax efficient giving via 'Stewardship'. Please email our Giving Secretary, giving@st-helens.org.uk for more information.

■ Resources

Many of you might be giving to a church for the first time. If you are wondering how to turn the theology of giving into a practical approach, there are some great books available. 'The Money Mentor' by Ash Carter is a very helpful short book to help you plan how to use your money and link it to God's teaching.

We have some great resources in our resource library on the new website, including talks to help you think through some of this. Our giving page also includes a few short films on why you should consider partnering in gospel work if you a member of our church family: www.st-helens.org.uk/get-involved/give/

