



St Mary's Charities 2024

Each year St Mary's supports several charities nominated by the Mission and Unity Committee. These comprise a variety of local, national, and international charities. This charitable giving is an expression of our faith at St Mary's Church.

Each month we focus our prayers on one charity and their volunteers and are mindful of the excellent work they do and the communities which they support. We may also invite speakers or raise specific funds for our charity of the month.

The specific charities we will support during 2024 are:

January - Little Havens Hospice - Providing short term respite care for children and their families.

February – St Mary's School - For school funds to assist families.

March - Brentwood School Christian Workers Trust - Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ in local schools.

April – Brentwood Citizens Advice Bureau - Offering free confidential information and advice to Borough residents.

May – Christians Against Poverty - Providing free professional debt help through local UK churches.

June – SNAP Special Needs and Parents - Supporting local children with special needs & their families.

July – Mission to Seafarers - Caring for seafarers of all nationalities in 300 ports around the world.

August – St Francis Hospice - Caring for patients with cancer and life-limiting illnesses and their families.

September –Shenfield High School - For their work in Religious Studies

October – USPG United Society Partners in the Gospel - USPG works in partnership with churches around the world to rethink mission, energise church and to champion justice.

November/ December –The Children's Society, Crisis and Norway House annual collections

In November and December, we do not focus on one specific charity but support different charities in the lead up to Christmas. We have our annual Christingle services supporting the Children's Society, a specific collection for Crisis who

support the homeless at Christmas time and our annual Pyjama Service collecting Christmas themed pyjamas for the children of families living at Norway House hostel for the homeless.

In addition to this, we also will be supporting Christian Aid with a coffee Morning around Christian Aid Week in May 2024.

Our main source of fundraising for these selected charities has been achieved by the regular use of **easyfundraising.org.uk**.

What is easyfundraising? They are a charity cashback site providing a free way to raise money for a good cause or charity when you shop online. Easyfundraising works with over 6,000 retailers who will give a donation as a thank you for shopping with them. Our supporters simply need to register as an **easyfundraising** supporter of 'St Mary's Charities' and then each time they shop **on-line** there may be the option to claim a small amount of cash back for our charities fund simply by clicking through the **easyfundraising** website first. Amazon, M&S, John Lewis, Sainsburys, Just Eat, Tui, Booking.com, and many more are all there. This is at no cost to the supporter!



We are gradually increasing our number of supporters and every single purchase helps. One supporter raised £161.19 simply by purchasing one significant item via **easyfundraising**, whilst another two transactions raised just over £72.00 each through one single purchase.

- ❖ *If you would like to help support St Marys Charities, please sign up to **easyfundraising** using the details or scanning the QR code.*
- ❖ *It costs you nothing but raises valuable funds for our chosen charities.*
*St Mary's raised £586.90 in 2023 for our chosen charities, through **easyfundraising** alone.*



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmarysshfieldcharities>

We also hold occasional small-scale events such as sales and raffles which help contribute to the charity funds. Our Craft Hub group, which meets once a month also contributes surplus subscriptions to the charities fund too. At the end of each year the total monies raised for the charities are then divided up between the selected charities and they are donated an equal sum each.



Our charities fund is run on the basis of the old Tanzanian proverb, '**Little by little, a little becomes a lot**', which is one of the reasons we continue to split the funds between so many different charities, rather than one single charity. Hopefully each charity can fund a small element of their work through the support of St Mary's Church.