

Octagonal Brass Alms dish, with arms of the Royal Brough of Kensington in the middle and the Abbot's Mitre in every quarter.

The inscription reads "From Harold Vaughan Kenyon, MBE. JP. Churchwarden of the Parish and Mayor of the Royal Brough of Kensington. 1931-1934".



THE COLLECTION

From the earliest days of the Church, (and, indeed, throughout the Hebrew Scriptures), there has been a strong emphasis on giving a proportion of your income to care for others, especially the poor and needy, as well as providing the resources needed for worship.

When the Israelites donated money and goods to build a temple in God's honour, King David declared, "All things come from you, and of your own have we given you." (1 Chronicles 29:14) Likewise, the founding and maintenance of churches built across this country, including St Mary Abbots, has been made possible by the generosity of benefactors who have donated their money, time or skills to serve the church. Traditionally, the "tithes" given to the church was one-tenth of a person's income; today the proportion is left to the discretion of the giver.

The "Collection" is generally taken during the Offertory hymn, but in many churches, there may be a so-called "retiring collection" as gifts are collected at the door when people are leaving. Adjusting to modern times and styles of giving, St Mary Abbots was one of the first churches to install card-readers for electronic donations, while regular worshippers are encouraged to pledge a certain amount each month.

The funds collected are used both for the upkeep of the church building (including heating, lighting, insurance, regular repairs and maintenance of the building, etc); for articles needed in worship (music, candles, bread and wine, children's resources, printing of service booklets) and for the support of those in need in our community. Donations are made to charities which reflect Christ's compassion to all, both locally and overseas, and parishioners also take part in appeals and fundraising events for the local Foodbank, refugee and homeless charities.