

CHECKLIST

- Read the information in this leaflet.
- Make sure you have the Commitment, Gift Aid and Standing Order forms that are enclosed. Spare copies are available at the back of the church.
- If you currently give regularly to the church by Standing Order, check your bank statement to confirm how much you give.
- Fill in your current monthly giving on the Commitment Form.
- Pray for God's guidance about giving.
- Bearing in mind the Church of England target of 5% of net income, decide how much you want to give in future (even if you are not increasing your giving).
- If you have not previously completed a Standing Order form, fill one in now.
- If you are a taxpayer, and can complete the gift aid declaration, please do so, as the church can collect a further 25% from HMRC.
- If you would prefer to pay, or increase your payment, through the envelope scheme, please contact ~~the church office~~.
- Put the completed forms in the box at the back of church by Sunday 19 March.

MORE INFORMATION

Contacts:

~~Parish Office~~
~~01223 353111~~
~~01223 353112~~
~~01223 353113~~

Key dates:

Sermon series on generosity: 12 - 26 Feb
Commitment Sunday: 26 Feb
Return of Commitment Forms at APCM: 19 March

FAQ

Q. What is the "Parish Share"?

A. Our contribution to the running costs of the diocese. Over two thirds of this pays for the cost of having a vicar.

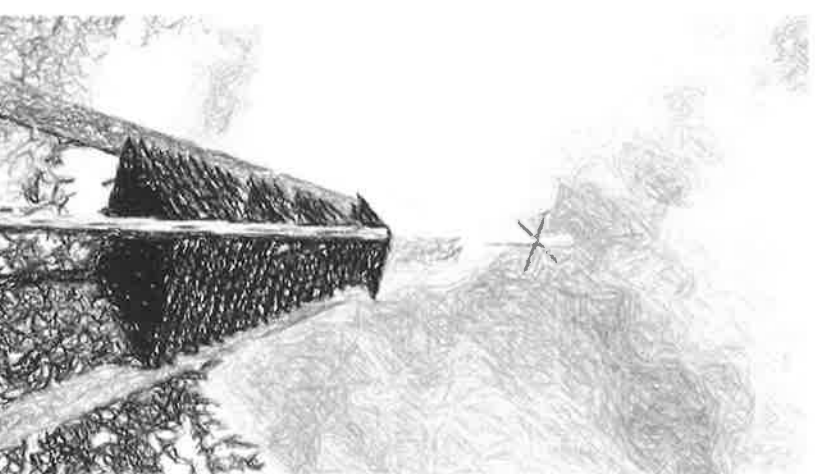
Q. Doesn't the Church of England have a lot of money already?

A. Much of it is committed to paying former clergy's pensions and housing costs. The rest supports mission work and dioceses in poorer parts of England.

Q. Does the government help fund the church?

A. There is no direct government funding, but completing the gift aid declaration means we can reclaim basic rate tax (and you can reclaim higher rate tax if you pay it).

PARISH



Our church

Our challenge

Our choice



“As we prepare to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the present church building at [redacted], we have a great deal to thank God for. We have a diverse congregation of all ages, a wide range of well-attended services, good connections with our schools and other community organisations, and a record of reaching out into our local community.”

We seek to continue with this work, but also to improve our appeal to families with young children, and to develop our service both within our church family and to the local community.

As we build for the future, we need to know that we rest on a stable foundation. We currently rely on income from our hall and the house we own to help meet our essential running costs; these are not covered fully by donations. That restricts, for example, the amount of time we can use the hall for any new church activities.

The PCC has therefore set a challenge of meeting the parish share we pay to the diocese from our regular giving, and to reinvest 10% of hall income into the building. I hope you will read this leaflet and send back the Commitment Forms, so we can meet this challenge together.”

[redacted] costs £110,000 a year



Expenses

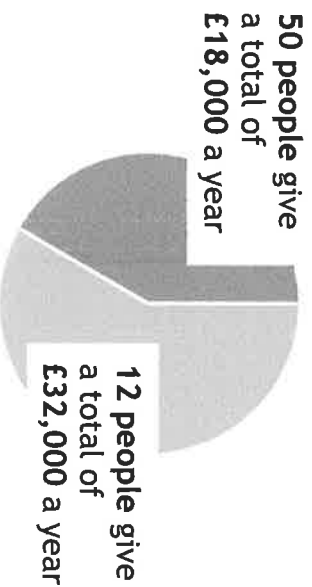
- Parish share £68,000
- Other £42,000

Income

- Planned giving £60,000
- Rents £32,000
- Other £18,000

Planned giving includes the tax we can reclaim through gift aid, but not the £5,000 a year put into the collection bags. Figures are approximate.

Who gives what?



Out of 62 people giving regularly to the church, 12 give £100 or more a month before gift aid (the average is just over £220). They give three-fifths of the total regular giving. The other 50 people give an average of £30 a month, contributing the remaining two-fifths.

How much more do we need?

Parish share shortfall	£8,000
10% of hall income	£2,000
TOTAL	£10,000

How do we raise it?

We could ask everyone to increase their regular giving by about 13%. But some cannot afford to, some already give a great deal, and some do not currently give regularly at all.

A better, and more Biblical, way is for us all to look at what we give as a proportion of our income. While the Bible talks about a 10% tithe, the CoFE suggests 5% to the church and 5% to other charities.

What would that be for you?

Net monthly income	Church giving	Net monthly income	Church giving
£800	£40	£2500	£125
£1000	£50	£3000	£150
£1200	£60	£3500	£175
£1600	£80	£4000	£200
£2000	£100	£5000	£250

Everyone's situation is different, and you may not be able to pay that much for very good reasons. But do work out what 5% of your household income would be before choosing how to respond to this challenge.