



GENEROUS GIVING

SUPPORTING THE LIFE AND
MISSION OF OUR CHURCH

HOW MUCH?

‘God loves a cheerful giver’, wrote St Paul. He encouraged Christians to give their money to the work of the church in a regular and organised way. But how much is the right amount?

What makes a generous giver? There are many measures of what makes a generous giver, many of which are in the Bible (and not all of them are financial!). The Old Testament set out the concept of the ‘tithe’ – 10% of your wealth to be given back to God. Jesus praised the poor widow who gave what she could – even if that didn’t seem very much to the person next to her. The Church of England’s target, set in 1978, is that church members should give 5% of their take-home pay to fund the work of the church (if that’s possible for them to manage).

It can be useful to check your own giving against such measures. Perhaps you could ask yourself:

‘Does what I give reflect the real state of my finances?’

‘Does what I give reflect my understanding of God’s goodness to me?’

The charts on the next page do not tell you how much you ought to give. That is for you and your household to decide prayerfully and thoughtfully. But the charts show the effect giving certain percentages of your income away would have on a weekly gift.

WE’RE ALL DIFFERENT

One reason why we don’t lay down a fixed rule for giving is that God has put us all in very different circumstances. For example, a pensioner who relies on the State pension alone may not be able to give as much as one who receives an index-linked company pension.

It is right that people should consider how much to give in accordance with their own circumstances. Those who are well-provided for materially may, in true Christian fashion, be called upon to bear more of the burden on behalf of their less well-off brothers and sisters, perhaps by increasing the percentage of their income that they give away. ‘Contributing to the needs of the saints’ and ‘giving cheerfully and as you’ve made up your mind’ are two themes picked up by St Paul.

GIVING CHARTS

PAID MONTHLY

Annual Income	Monthly Donation		
Before Tax	10%	5%	1%
£5,000	£42	£21	£4
£10,000	£74	£37	£7
£20,000	£131	£66	£13
£30,000	£189	£94	£19
£40,000	£246	£123	£25
£50,000	£294	£147	£29
£60,000	£344	£172	£34
£70,000	£394	£197	£39
£80,000	£444	£222	£44
£90,000	£494	£247	£49
£100,000	£544	£272	£54

PAID WEEKLY

Annual Income	Weekly Donation		
Before Tax	10%	5%	1%
£5,000	£10	£5	£1
£10,000	£17	£8	£2
£20,000	£30	£15	£3
£30,000	£44	£22	£4
£40,000	£57	£28	£6
£50,000	£68	£34	£7
£60,000	£79	£40	£8
£70,000	£91	£45	£9
£80,000	£102	£51	£10
£90,000	£114	£57	£11
£100,000	£125	£63	£13

HOW THE MONEY IS SPENT

We're hugely grateful for the time and support that you give to our church, both in your time and your finances

But there are some stark facts that you should probably be aware of and some myths to bust...

In 2024 The Parish contributed £20k towards the cost of stipendiary ministry.

In 2024, the Parish contributed c.33% of the actual cost of what it received in stipendiary ministry.

The Diocese supported and subsidised our ministry to tune of £35K through the national 'Lowest Income Communities' (LinC) Funding grant.

The cost of maintaining one stipendiary priest is around £60k per year (this is not take-home pay for the clergy which is c.£30k) but does include the cost of housing, pension contributions & National Insurance or contributions to diocesan costs.

In 2025, thanks to your generosity and some tough decisions on expenditure we are on course to pay £42k towards shared ministry costs with an additional subsidy of at least £26k from the LinC Fund (allowing us to clear some historic share arrears).

This is in addition to the significant help, advice and support that we receive from Diocesan staff and senior clergy in the running and administration of the Parish.

We appreciate your great generosity towards our shared ministry. As we review things, please could we ask you to bear in mind the following:

Please consider your future offerings very carefully in response to what God has done for you and the ministry that you receive here.

Your financial offerings go directly towards the ministry that you receive here (there are more insights into this over the page)

The Diocese is significantly supporting this parish and investing in its ministry. However, the LinC Funding is not forever...

WHERE THE MONEY GOES LOCALLY

Your regular offering helps to support some of the following within the parish (clergy also engage in ministry more widely within the Diocese as our priesthood is not geographically contained!):

WORSHIP

Prayer and worship is offered daily within the parish.

Prayer and the Administration of the Sacraments is at the heart of everything we do and everything else flows from that.

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS

Across 2024 there were several of each and more to come throughout 2025.

PASTORAL CARE

We visit people in their homes when invited to. We're always here to talk to people and to help & guide them as needed – a ministry that's often unseen by others.

COMMUNITY AND CIVIC LINKS

We work hard to maintain links within the community. We work closely alongside the Town Council and Fr Chris is Mayor's Chaplain this year. We host major civic events, concerts, gatherings and a variety of other things.

FAITH, TEACHING, DISCIPLESHP

We prepare people for confirmation; create, prepare and run teaching courses to help others in their life of faith.

SCHOOLS & YOUNG PEOPLE

Children's Church is a vital part of our church life too and needs adequate resourcing.

We seek to support and maintain relationships with our local schools where they wish to and we do class or church visits & services with them when invited. St Eanswythe's has a weekly assembly in church and our volunteers and Fr Chris support assemblies at St Mary's School. Fr Chris is a governor at both church primary schools.

BUILDINGS, MAINTENANCE, ADMINISTRATION

The Church needs to be properly administered & governed – from both a legal and a moral standpoint - and this takes time and effort. Our building is lovely but Grade II* buildings take a lot of looking after (and heating too!). The very act of fundraising, maintaining our finances and remaining legally compliant costs money. We're very blessed to have such a wonderful administrator too - and, as Jesus reminds us, a labourer is worthy of his hire! It's also worth bearing in mind that a Sunday service costs £100+ almost before the first 'Amen' by the time you factor in organist, printing, heating & lighting, refreshments (and that's not counting the financial value of volunteer hours!).

5 THINGS TO CONSIDER

1 To review how much you are able to give to the work of St Mary & St Eanswythe's:

Use the helpful guidance in this booklet to help you to do this and you may wish to make this decision as a household, rather than as an individual. Please also consider what information has informed your decision making up until now as the financial situation of the church locally and at diocesan level has changed significantly in recent years.

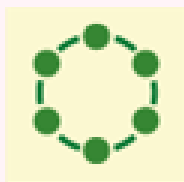
2 To become part of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS): please sign up if you possibly can. It comes at no cost to you or to the parish and it makes the treasurer's life a huge amount easier. Please also sign up to the inflationary increase scheme as that makes a difference to keeping track with the cost of living. You'll be asked to confirm this increase each year, so if it's not possible or you can only manage a slight increase each year that's fine.

PGS is a nationally accredited Direct Debit system. You can sign up online here: <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/>

You can also sign up via a paper form from the Parish Office or Jenny Coleman;

Or via the phone: 0333 002 1260 /Our Parish Code is: 060606098

We would be happy to provide details and support for how you can switch to direct giving. Please carefully consider allowing your name to be recorded (i.e. don't tick 'anonymous' unless you really feel you have to). We don't think any more or less of you according to your donation (and it's not something that others have access to beyond the Treasurer), but if you're anonymous it does make it harder not only to track how giving is going but also that we won't be able to write to you and thank you!



Parish Giving
QR code

3 Please also make sure that you're signed up to Gift Aid your donations **if you pay a sufficient amount of tax**. This allows us to reclaim up to 25% more on a donation- at no additional cost to you.

4 If you're currently giving by cash or cheque, or regularly via the card reader: could you consider giving via the Parish Giving Scheme? The reason we ask is that it helps enormously with guaranteeing a regular income to work with. It's also increasingly common for banks to charge us for cash and cheque transactions which is not desirable when people are demonstrating financial generosity, but seems like a sign of the times. Using the card reader also means we pay transaction fees and we may not always be able to claim Gift Aid on those donations.

5 Could you remember us in your will? Your generosity could have a massive impact on future ministry here – even whilst you're rejoicing on another shore! Please speak to Fr Chris or Jenny Coleman for more information and a quiet word. Our PCC Legacy Policy is available on request.



Parish Priest

Fr Christopher Johnson
vicar.mefolkestone@gmail.com
07931 804952

Parish Office

sainteanswythe@gmail.com
01303 252947

