

I want to know...

how much should I give?

Giving is essential to secure our Church's future ability to serve our communities. In picking up this leaflet we hope you want to give, but you are now thinking "how much?"

Circumstances differ enormously and your gift will not simply reflect your willingness to give but also your ability. As a basic starting point the Church believes that in giving to others we should give in proportion to what we receive; i.e. in proportion to our income.

The Church of England encourages committed Churchgoers to give away 10 per cent of their income to good causes, a practice known as tithing which has Biblical origins. It is suggested that of this 10 per cent half is offered as a gift to the Church. This level of giving would ensure not only a secure future for the Church but enable real growth in mission and outreach.

We recognize this recommendation is a challenge. Please be assured we are grateful for and careful with every donation made to the Church, mindful of our duty to use your gifts wisely to grow the presence of God and the Church in our communities.

Whatever you do give we ask that it is a considered, prayerful expression of your faith in action.

To help you reflect on proportionate giving, a 'Giving Guide' is available which illustrates what giving would be for various levels of income at 10 per cent, five per cent and one per cent.

I want to know...

why is inflation important?

Over time the cost of living keeps increasing. This is as true for the Church as it is for other areas of society, paying clergy, salaries and maintaining buildings, all go up over time.

Over the past 50 years the reliance of the Church on personal donations has increased enormously.

The Church currently relies on these regular gifts being made either through standing order or by cash in the collection plate. The difficulty with donations made in this way is that although generous they are fixed: trends suggest that a donor who puts £10 in the collection plate each week, or sets up a standing order for £50 per month is unlikely to increase their gift on a yearly basis by (say) 3% – putting £10.30 in the plate or changing their standing order to £51.50 a month.

Although this problem may seem small, collectively its effect on the Church is enormous.

In this diocese we are giving people the opportunity to easily agree, in principle, to increase their donations inline with inflation each year as part of the new Parish Giving Scheme. We are inviting donors to consider securing their support to the church for the long term by ticking 'yes' to an annual increase to their donation. Donors can be reassured that if circumstances change it is also easy to decline the increase when the annual inflationary letter arrives.