

Tasks for Generous Giving

'Giving for Life', a report adopted by General Synod, identifies five key tasks for parishes wanting to encourage generous giving:

- Nurture Christians whose discipleship is characterised by a generosity that starts to reflect the overflowing generosity of God and that becomes a lifestyle habit of offering hospitality, and of giving of time, talents, and resources (including money) for mission and ministry.
- Preach and teach regularly about giving as an expression of Christian discipleship. It is not the responsibility of preachers and teachers to raise funds for the church; it is their role to nurture disciples who understand discipleship.
- Communicate clearly that giving to the church enables mission and ministry. Givers may be unaware of the impact of their giving.
- Review giving annually. Personal and church finances work on an annual basis, and so it can be helpful to help people review their giving annually. There are many different ways in which a review can be done.
- Thank regular givers annually with a personal 'thank you' letter. This values givers, and provides another opportunity for them to see how their giving supports mission and ministry.

Our Common Fund Prayer

God our Father, make us to think more of what we can give to life and less of what we can get out of it. May we be mindful that we hold our gifts, our talents, our possessions, our life itself, in trust for you and the service of all people. Save us from thinking only of our own needs and desires; and help us to remember that it is more blessed to give than receive, according to the teaching of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Information & resources

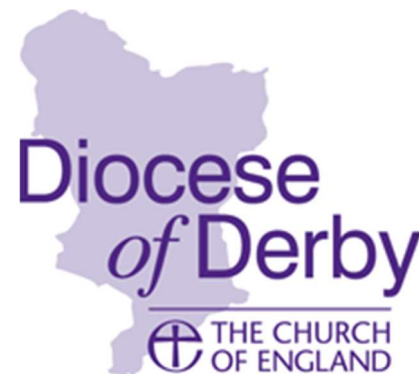
We have a wide range of resources to help parishes review planned giving. For more information, please contact the Archdeacons or the Parish Support Office.

Contact

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Telephone: 01332 388650

Christ's presence in every community

Growing • Outward Facing • Learning • Healthy



Living generously



The Common Fund: Meeting the Challenge

Living Generously

The Common Fund is money given by each parish to support the work of clergy across our Diocese. It provides the resources which enable a witness to Christ's presence in every community through our churches, our schools, and our service and outreach into our communities. Our commitment to contribute to the Common Fund binds us together in a generous way of living for the sake of others, locally and across the Diocese.

A challenge

Contributing to the Common Fund can be a challenge for parishes: it can seem less attractive than contributing to local mission and ministry – the Holiday Club, the Lunch Club, the Youth Weekend, the Café Church. Its relevance and importance can be less clear. Unlike the excitement that can be generated to encourage individuals to support local mission and ministry, getting excited about the Common Fund may seem unimaginable!



Importance of contributions

What happens when a parish is unable to contribute to the Common Fund in full? A parish may find itself in this situation for a variety of reasons: an unexpected large bill, a reduced level of income.

A shortfall in contributions from parishes means that less money is available to pay the costs associated with stipendiary ministers in parishes. With no access to 'emergency' funds to make good the shortfall, Diocesan finance staff have to ensure that **only the money available is spent**. To achieve this, it may be necessary to **delay making appointments, including stipendiary clergy** to parishes. Whatever action is taken to 'balance the books' is likely not only to be unpopular but also to have a negative impact on the mission and ministry of our Diocese.



It is sometimes said that the contributions parishes are asked to make to the Common Fund are voluntary: if a parish is unable to contribute in full – or chooses not to contribute in full – the balance outstanding is not a 'legal debt'. This is true: the bailiffs will not be sent to a parish that has not contributed in full!

However, describing contributions to the Common Fund as 'voluntary' is a misunderstanding of our mutual responsibility to each other as members of the same Diocesan community.

The Diocesan Budget, and the mission and ministry it funds, is agreed each year by Diocesan Synod. Every parish is represented on the Synodical structures and therefore every parish through its representatives has both the ability and the responsibility to influence the discussions at Deanery and Diocesan Synods. There is an understanding and an expectation that decisions made at Deanery and Diocesan Synods should be supported and implemented by every parish.

