

Common Myths

The Church of England is wealthy. It does not need my money

The income from the Church of England's investments *does not* even fully pay for the clergy pensions. Some help is given to poorer Dioceses, *such as ours*, but it is modest.

The Parish Share is a tax from which we see no benefit

The Parish Share *comes back* to your parish to pay for your clergy, including their housing and pension costs. The Church is a community in which the wealthier parishes help the poorer ones, *but we all should do what we can*.

The Church gives us no help in deciding how much to give

The General Synod has recommended that we give at least 5% of our net income to the church.

Only through prayer and careful thought can we know if that is too little or too much for our circumstances.

St. Paul's principles on Giving, listed inside, help us decide.

Tax efficient Giving

If you are a taxpayer, the tax you pay on your giving can be reclaimed by the church.

The Gift Aid arrangements are very flexible. Your Gift Aid Secretary or Treasurer will answer any questions you may have.



for help and further information please contact

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can put
a smile on
your face

Being a Christian involves us in many important life changing decisions

We consider our relationship with God and with our neighbours.

We look in our hearts to question our feelings and our actions. We question our life's priorities.

We give thanks for all that God has given us. For our families and friends.

We must also review our relationship with our possessions, especially our money

If we **believe** in the work of our church in the community, **we will want to see that work resourced. We do this in thankfulness to God.**

The way **we respond** to this challenge shows **the strength of our relationship to God.**

How much should I give?

If we give meanly, we cannot think much of God.

If we give generously, we are showing that we have committed ourselves and all that we have to his work and glory.

Through careful thought and prayer, we will find the answer.

These principles, taught us in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, will help

- ✓ **God's work is to be resourced by each member of the Church**
- ✓ **Our Giving should be regular**
- ✓ **It should be budgeted**
- ✓ **It should be a realistic proportion of what we have**
- ✓ **Our Giving should be cheerful and not reluctant**
- ✓ **Our Giving should be generous and sacrificial**
- and today we would add
- ✓ **Our Giving should be tax efficient!**