

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 pay for the pensions to retired clergy, nor the stipends (pay) of serving priests. Most of the church's costs are met from giving by people like you.

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, their housing and pension costs. We belong to a family of churches across the diocese. Through the Parish Share, wealthier parishes help the poorer ones, but we should all 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 take-home income to the Church, and a further 5% to other good causes. How much might that mean for you? Only through prayer and careful thought can you know if that is too little or too much for your present circumstances.

Tax Efficient Giving

If you are a taxpayer, the tax you pay on your giving can be reclaimed by the church. This will add 25p to every £1 you give, at no cost to you. *giftaid it*

Gift Aid arrangements are very flexible, and the form is very simple. Your Gift Aid Secretary or Treasurer will answer any questions you have.



giving

Can put a smile on your face

Produced by the Diocese of Bath and Wells, based with permission on material from the Diocese of Winchester.



DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.

There is more about giving and the Bible on our website:

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/parish-support/christian-giving-and-funding/>

Giving



**can put
a smile on
your face**

... God loves a cheerful giver ...

Being a Christian involves us in 'thinking different' about many things

Jesus says that, in his society, there is a new way for people to live.

You show wisdom, by trusting people;

You handle leadership, by serving;

You handle offenders, by forgiving;

You handle money, by sharing;

You handle violence, by suffering;

You have a new attitude – towards everything, towards everybody.

We must also 'think different' about our relationship with our possessions – especially our money.

Whose money is it? Ours? Or God's, given to us as stewards? 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.

These principles* will help. Our giving should
be:-

Regular – 'the first day of the week'

Universal – God's work is to be resourced by
every Church member

Planned – money set aside for God, not
leftovers

Proportionate – a realistic proportion of what
we have.

In addition, our giving should be **cheerful** and
not reluctant.

and today we would add . . .

Our giving should be **tax efficient!**

* The principles are from St Paul.

Take ten minutes to read the first two verses
of 1 Corinthians chapter 16, and 2 Corinthians
chapters 8 and 9 for yourself . . .