

A sample Stewardship Letter from another diocese [not London]
For Parish Share read Common Fund

Dear [Givers and not yet givers]

Please would you make yourself a cup of tea or coffee and spend a few minutes reading this letter.

Thank you for all you give to give to St [X] through your sharing in worship, prayer and your commitment of time and money. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel through the mission and ministry of God's Church.

This letter is specifically about financial giving. If you would like to reflect on how you currently give time and talents or how you would like to develop, grow and become more involved in this way please do contact one of the clergy team.

This year your financial giving has enabled St X's to employ our Youth and Children's, and Administrative staff to enable, encourage and lead the church in following Jesus and making Him known. It has paid for the maintenance, heating and insurance of our building. It has enabled the PCC to give Parish Share to the Diocese.

Parish Share is our share of the costs of the whole Diocese. It redistributes wealth to pay for parish clergy and their housing and pensions across the Diocese; invests in the future of the church through training of new clergy at college and through curacy; provides churches, clergy and parish officers with support and training in areas of ministry and Safeguarding; and ensures good Diocesan governance.

Roughly speaking a half of what is given to St X's goes to the Diocese in Parish Share from which we receive our clergy and the support above, and half is spent locally on our staff and plant. Every aspect of St X's mission and ministry is dependent for funding on our own giving. We use everything we are given and the PCC seeks to steward it well in line with our vision [xxxx].

Thank you for your generous giving.

Christian giving is not only about supporting ministry and mission of the church. It is a part of following of Jesus, part of our discipleship. Paul's second letter to the Corinthian church teaches that Christian giving is ;

- an act of worship, a response to the grace and love that we receive from God. (2 Cor 8:1-8).
- marked by generosity, it is a privilege to give to God and enable God's work (2 Cor 8:4)
- part of a mind set that offers our whole selves including our money to God (2 Cor 8:5). In doing this it helps us to keep money in its rightful place.
- a test of the sincerity of our love for God and one another. (2 Cor 8:8)

So, Christian giving benefits everyone, the giver, the church and our Lord.

How does Paul teach we should approach giving? 2 Cor 9:7 says that our giving should be **personal and planned** (v7). In general the Bible calls us to give first what we have prayerfully to give and not from what is left.

2 Cor 8 speaks of it being **proportionate or in keeping with income/circumstances** (v12). We are not asked to give in excess of our means. Everyone is in a different situation with respect to both financial and family situation.

2 Cor 9:6 we are called to give **generously**. The New Testament does not speak of giving a percentage (tithing), but rather calls us to give in response to God, in worship and in sacrifice. One of our biblical values as a church is that of sacrificial generosity in response to God's great love for us. Paul teaches that **giving brings joy and thanksgiving to the giver** (2 Cor 9:11). It is a counter intuitive truth that giving away brings us joy through making a difference to others and enables us to be more thankful for all that God has given us.

In light of the above the PCC and I would like to invite you to do 4 things.

Firstly, if you are already a regular giver to St X please would you prayerfully **review your giving**.

Prayerful review involves reviewing your current financial situation in line with the principles above whilst also listening to what God may be calling you to do. Perhaps simply asking, 'Lord, help me to know what you are asking of me?' just before you spend a little time reviewing this letter and your finances. It may be that you decide to reduce, stay the same or increase giving. If you are tax payer please do also take advantage of Gift Aid (if you don't already) This increases your gift considerably to the church.

Secondly, if you are not currently a **regular giver** to St Mary's we are inviting you to consider doing so. You could use the same process as the paragraph above. If you did decide to give there are forms enclosed in this letter and available on our website or you can speak to [XX] in confidence about this. One of the ways that we feel involved is through our giving.

Thirdly, we are **inviting everyone to consider making a one off extra gift** to St X's on or around Sunday the 25th November this year. For some of us that gift may be in thankful response to all that we see God doing, or for a good year financially. For some it may be an act of sacrifice in response to God's grace in our lives. Or it may be all of the above.

Finally, if you want to give regularly and are not already a member of the **Parish Giving Scheme** then please consider joining it. It makes life considerably easier for our Treasurer and team, especially with respect to tax reclamation and also gives an option of increasing giving in line with inflation each year. There is more information on the enclosed leaflet.

By God's grace and through the generosity of the congregation we are currently expecting to break even on our budgeted expenditure for this year. However, due to inflationary pressures next year the PCC are currently budgeting a deficit. Our hope, prayer and expectation is that that challenge will be met through the response of St X's.

If you have any questions or would like to talk further about anything in this letter please do contact the Vicar X (email /tel) or X (email) our Stewardship coordinator.

yours in Christ

Name

Name

Vicar

Stewardship Coordinator

On behalf of St X PCC