

Our Choices:-

- To increase the number of Planned Givers – particularly those giving by Standing Order;
- For all tax-payers, to consider joining the Gift Aid scheme;
- For all givers, to think carefully what our offered weekly sum of money would buy (a coffee?) and to increase it (to a cinema ticket?);
- For those of us who already give via Standing Order and weekly envelopes, to review our giving, and our capacity to give, each year;
- For those who are planning our Wills and eventual legacies: to consider leaving some money to our Church;
- For those who have gained a fortunate windfall: to consider making a donation to our church in recognition of that good fortune.
- To make it easier for occasional visitors (e.g. to Baptisms, weddings and funerals) to make a donation via a contactless payment system at the new Donation Table.

A few possible consequences of our predicament:-

- We cannot spend any money on improving the church heating system for the comfort of all our worshippers;
- We cannot spend any money on improving the quality of our sound and projection system for the smooth running of our worship services;
- We cannot spend any money on improving our support of children & young people, or other parish members;

Giving in Grace – Giving for Growth



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“But just as you excel in everything ,, see also that you excel in the grace of giving” 2 Corinthians 8: 7

Our Church:- Christ Church Douglas in Parbold:-

We are a welcoming, active and growing church

- We play our full part in supporting the ministry of our Diocese (Blackburn);
- We offer vibrant and varied worship experiences with wide-ranging clergy and lay involvement;
- We run regular activities for children and young people via Junior Church, Soul Action Café, and activity trips;
- We minister to local people through pastoral visits, Holy Communion, baptism and confirmation, funerals, weddings, and special services at Christmas, Remembrance Day, and summer festivals in the village;
- We maintain and improve the fabric of our Grade II Listed Victorian church building, and its parish graveyard which is open to all people in Parbold parish;
- We support our local C of E Academy at Parbold Douglas School, the Noah’s Ark playgroup, and a local nursery;
- We offer small groups for Bible study, discussion and prayer;
- We support a number of chosen Christian charities and initiatives in the UK and overseas.

Our church – your church – is free: but it comes at a cost!

Our Challenge:-

Although our church congregation is growing, we face an immediately uncertain financial future: our budget forecast for 2020 is for a deficit of £20,000.

This is because:

- Our Parish Share which we have to pay to Blackburn Diocese this year has been raised to £56,691 (in 2017 it was £48,000)¹;
- We increased our financial commitments to enable professional help with children's and youth work, and with church administration to enable us to provide better outreach and ministry;
- though overall numbers in our congregation grew, we have lost several particularly generous members in the past few years;
- Costs of essential items such as heating oil, of replacing sound and projection equipment, and all forms of maintenance, have been higher than expected.

And so:-

Unless we can first eliminate our £20,000 deficit as well as meeting our regular expenses, we face the rapid reduction of our reserves over a period of only 3 years.

Unless we can increase the number of 'Planned Givers' and the overall amount raised by 'Planned Giving', providing us with a wider and sounder financial base, our future finances will continue to be insecure, preventing growth in our ministry.

¹ This money helps to pay for the work and ministry of the Diocese and includes support for churches in deprived areas of the Diocese. The Church of England does not pay us – we have to pay them!

Some facts you may not be aware of:-

- Our Parish Share alone is almost £600 per year for every regular attender² ;
- To cover the budgeted total expenditure for 2020, (if nobody else ever gave any money) each regular attender would need to contribute £1200 per year;
- Parents attending for a Faith Reference for a church secondary school count as regular attenders;
- 'Planned Giving' (from Standing Orders and envelopes of regular givers) is the single biggest source of church income, but falls far short of the amount required to meet the budget.

Using our statistics for 2018 (91 'Planned Givers'), it is clear that a small number of people contributed a large proportion of our church income:-

- 10% of Planned Givers gave 36% of the money contributed through Planned Giving;
- 20% of Planned Givers gave 55% of all money contributed through Planned Giving;

but:-

- 20% of Planned Givers gave less than £2.50 per week;
- 20% of Planned Givers gave £2.50-£5.00 per week;

And each additional £10,000 that our Church needs is equivalent to:-

- £2.00 extra per worshipper per week (or £8.00 per month); or
- 20 new Planned Givers, each giving £9.51 per week (which is the Diocesan average).

²According to the official count made over 3 Sundays in each October, and recorded as a 'rolling' 3-year average, currently 95. An official Regular Weekly Attender is one who is known to attend Church once per month. (though our overall worshipping community of adults is 140).