

## How and when should I give?

Some people **give occasionally**, when a need is brought to their attention, or when their financial situation allows it. We hope that this appeal will encourage you to make a generous donation. We are planning to introduce a 'contactless card' reader in the next few weeks to enable you to make a gift, even if you are not carrying cash.

**Legacies:** the church has benefitted recently from two significant legacies which have helped to cover the shortfall in regular giving. Please consider including a gift to the parish church in your will.

'I GIVE the residue of my estate/ the sum of \_\_\_\_pounds (£) to the PCC of Bovey Tracey, of East Street, Bovey Tracey TQ13 9EP and I DIRECT that the receipt of the Administrator or other proper officer of the Parish Church of St Peter, Paul & Thomas, Bovey Tracey shall be good and sufficient discharge to my Executor.'

Others **give regularly** through the envelope scheme or a bankers' standing order. This regular income is very helpful because it enables us to budget and plan ahead more easily. If you do not yet give regularly please consider setting up a direct debit or standing order, or requesting envelopes to give weekly if you prefer.

Some **give proportionally** to their income. This reflects the biblical principle of the tithe (10%). In the sight of God it is not the amount that we give but its value to us that best reflects its value.

Others have learned to **give sacrificially**. Although we will never publish the details of who gives what, it is striking how much of our income comes from a few very generous members, who are not necessarily the wealthiest among us. They have discovered that God richly blesses those who give freely.

The value of what you give can be increased by **28%** if you are a taxpayer and complete a **Gift Aid declaration**. By this means we were able to reclaim from the Inland Revenue of tax that you had already paid on your donation.

The Church account name is "PCC of Bovey Tracey",  
Sort code 30-96-06: account number 0121991

## THE GRACE OF GIVING



There are many reasons for encouragement in the life of our church family at the moment: there are increasing numbers of children at the first service, and we regularly welcome new faces to our congregations. We have people in training on several different ministry courses, and exploring the faith for the first time. There is at last a sense of progress with plans to improve our buildings. But we should always draw our encouragement from the fact that Jesus Christ is Lord. Even if things don't seem to be going well, he still lives and reigns, and pours out his grace on us! All that we do as a church can only ever be a reflection and response of thankfulness to what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. This leaflet is an encouragement to consider how we give for the work of this gospel good news:

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." (2 Cor 8.8)

Our life as a church family depends on people giving generously of their time and energy. We rely on volunteers who clean and maintain the buildings, lead prayers and provide music, visit the sick and housebound, and teach our youth and children.

We also need the support of our staff, who are paid for a set number of hours, and usually work for many more. They teach and lead groups and deal with complex administrative issues. We enable their work by giving money to our local parish church, PPT Bovey. Our giving also pays the bills for gas and electricity and the maintenance and repairs of our buildings. We want to update you on the financial situation at PPT, and ask you to review your support.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is in law an independent Charity and its elected members are the trustees. Although we have some income from grants and fees, the vast majority of our income comes from the giving of the congregation.

We ought to pay for what we receive, and to give some job security to those whom we employ. The PCC therefore sets a budget for each year and reviews the situation every time it meets.

The PCC employs five members of staff:  
Mark Sugden Office administrator (16 hrs)  
Rosie Stephens -family worker (24 hrs)  
Mark Alexander - ministry assistant (40 hrs)  
Camilla Matheson- First Steps leader (8 hours)  
Diana James- church room cleaner (4 hours)

Graham our vicar is technically an 'office holder' rather than an employee with a salary for a set number of hours, and his stipend is paid by the *Church Commissioners*, but the PCC recognises that it has a moral obligation to pay to the *Diocesan Common Fund* at least the estimated cost of his stipend, housing and pension, and a reasonable share of the diocesan resources such as training curates, safeguarding and buildings advice which we use, as well as trying to support smaller churches which cannot pay the cost of the ministry they receive.

For the last 3 years we have tried at the *Diocesan Synod* to reform the formula used for calculating Common Fund. We believe that the system is unsustainable, and in trying to support all the smaller churches it effectively penalises larger churches like ours that also need local staff to help them grow, but our proposals have now been rejected.

In setting its budget the PCC has therefore made its priority first paying what we regard as a reasonable share of the Diocesan request for Common Fund, then employing the local staff we consider essential for the growth of our church, and only then considering meeting the rest of the Common Fund request. The fact remains that Common Fund is in law a voluntary contribution: one charity cannot demand money from another. Together with St Mary's Hennock we are a net contributor to Exeter Diocese, and the biggest giver in the Deanery.

#### **Figures for 2019 agreed by the PCC**

Common Fund	£62,000	(Diocese request £84,817)
Local salaries	£47,000	
Fabric & utilities	£10,000	
Mission & worship	£6,000	
Insurance	£4,000	
Other running costs	£13,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£142,000</b>	

The PCC had planned to withdraw £15,000 from reserves in 2019, but giving so far this year has fallen short of expectations by £17,000. To cover this deficit by the end of the year would require £110 (an extra £10 a week) from every regular adult worshipper. The PCC has reserves to cover this shortfall, but spending it now reduces our ability to plan for future work.

The PCC soon needs to make a decision on whether to employ a part-time youth worker from September 2020, when Mark Alexander's contract expires. We also want to pursue improvements to the sound system, doors and lighting in the church. But we will not be able to afford these plans unless you the congregation increase the income.

Our church members span a wide range of incomes and ages. We present an average figure so that you may be no under illusions about the costs involved in sustaining an active parish church. But this average figure will seem an impossible demand for those on low incomes, while for others on high incomes this figure would not be particularly painful. We are grateful for all gifts, the details of which are known only to the Treasurer and Gift Aid secretary.

If we are to keep our present commitments into 2020 (a fair contribution to Common Fund and local staff) the average adult worshipper needs to give £1000 a year, (or £84 a month, or £20 a week). To pay the Common Fund in full would require the average contribution to be £1090 per year.

If you value the life and work of our parish, please review how much, and how often you give, and if you have particular questions, please contact the Treasurer, Mrs Tafline Percy: [treasurer@pptbovey.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@pptbovey.org.uk)

yours in Christ,

Rev Graham Hamilton  
Mr Roy White  
Mr Mike Limb

Sunday 13 October 2019