

The Parish of Grimsargh St Michael

Stewardship 2020



*Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you and of your own do we give you*

(1 Chronicles 29)

Why should I give?

As Christians, we give as a sign of our love for God and in response to God's love and generosity to us. One of the marks of a healthy church is that people give generously of their time, talents and money in the cause of Christ. Good stewardship of our resources is about generously giving back to God and seeing the Church grow as it is resourced for mission and ministry with our support.

How much does St Michael's church cost to run?

As with any organisation we have maintenance costs and bills to pay, such as fuel bills, water charges and insurance cover. There are also running costs specific to the church, such as maintaining our services and resourcing our ministry in the community. In addition there is the 'parish share' payable to the diocese.

	2016	2017	2018
Maintenance	2,967	1,149	2,062
Cost of ministry & running the church	13,574	13,628	9,087
Parish share paid	29,088	26,231	27,547
Total	45,629	41,008	38,696
Parish share <i>not</i> paid	613	9,647	9,854
Total including full Parish Share due	46,242	50,655	48,550

*Table 1:
Summary of church expenses, including unpaid parish share*

What is the Parish Share?

As a Church we have a responsibility to the parish. We also have a responsibility to the wider people of God as represented in our diocese of Blackburn. We therefore pay our share towards a common fund, in line with all the parishes of the Church of England.

The diocese of Blackburn needs this income to support the ministry of the Church throughout the diocese, including here in Grimsargh. Over 70p in every pound of the share is spent on parishes, including paying clergy stipends and housing costs, as well as supporting parishes in areas of deprivation where the ministry of the Church is of profound importance.

The parish share is as much a legitimate financial commitment as paying the gas bill - but we are not paying it in full.

How much is our income?

	2016	2017	2018
Planned giving weekly envelopes and standing orders	15,285	14,386	12,248
Unplanned giving Loose cash and gift aid envelopes	6,354	6,064	7,794
Total giving from the congregation	21,639	20,450	20,042
Gift Aid reclaim	12,122	4,054	4,239
Donations	1,700	1,117	2,958
Fees weddings & funerals	1,786	2,302	5,818
Other Including fundraising	8,208	17,261	7,942
Total income	45,455	45,184	40,999

Table 2: Summary of church income.

The amount received through planned weekly or monthly giving has declined over recent years, as has our total income figure. The amount received through regular giving from the congregation is less than half our total income.

So, we need more money..?

The figures are quite striking:

We do not have enough income to meet all our regular costs.

We have been surviving largely by not paying our parish share.

Are you asking me to give more?

NO. But we as a church council are asking everyone to reflect on three things:

- 1) Have you thought recently about WHY you give to the Church?
- 2) Have you thought recently about how much you are giving? Not are you giving 'enough', but are you giving a 'realistic amount,' based on your resources, your needs and in a way that reflects your sense of belonging to the Church?
- 3) Have you thought about the way you give? Are you giving *effectively*?

What is 'effective giving'?

Giving that is **planned** and **regular** is most effective, because it helps the church to budget and to know that it can pay its monthly outgoings. Giving in this way also helps you to think seriously about your giving as a commitment to Christ, through the Church. **Regular, planned giving signifies your commitment, regardless of how much you give.**

The best ways to give regularly are by:

- **Standing Order**
- **Weekly Giving Envelopes**

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If you pay tax and have completed a valid **Gift Aid** declaration, St Michael's PCC can reclaim the tax that you paid on your offering. When you give via Gift Aid we can claim back 25p for every £1 you give.

So, what's the next step?

- Please pray and think about the points raised in this leaflet. Can you help to improve our financial position and support our ongoing ministry in the parish
- Speak with the Vicar, a churchwarden or the treasurer if you want to discuss anything further.
- If you pay income tax (or capital gains tax), please ensure you have signed a Gift Aid form (available in church)
- If you can set up a standing order, please do so (details in church, or attached with this leaflet)
- If this is not possible, and you haven't started to give in a planned way, please ask about weekly giving envelopes.

Thank you

Please remember:

Giving is not a legalistic obligation but a joyful expression of thanks to God. We need to pray and ask for guidance, believing that God understands our individual situation and needs. The actual amount each of us can give will differ.

The New Testament is not prescriptive about how much Christians should give, only that we should give generously, freely and cheerfully and in accordance with our means.

