

Making a Parish Share pledge

A guide for PCCs

Making your parish share pledge is a significant decision that the PCC is asked to take ahead of each coming year. Together across the diocese we seek as a household of faith to meet the costs of ministry in our parishes.

This guide seeks to help you in your decision making. This is a decision for the whole PCC – it's too important a decision to be left to the treasurer.

First, here are three terms you will need to understand...



You may wish to prepare with reflection

Read **Philippians 4:10-20** or **2 Corinthians 8:1-15**. What do these passages have to say about how churches might share in meeting of the costs of ministry? (see over)

1

Parish Ministry Cost (PMC¹)

An estimate of the costs of ministry in your benefice². It includes stipends, NI and pension, averaged housing costs, and a share of the costs training of new ministers and central diocesan costs.

2

Parish Share

The contribution you make towards the costs of ministry across the diocese. Some parishes pledge more than PMC so that others, especially those in deprived communities, can pledge less.

3

Your pledge

The amount that you plan to contribute in the coming year to mission and ministry across the diocese. Pledges should be both generous and realistic.

Before making your pledge, you may find it helpful to consider three pieces of information:

- Personal Demographics and wealth.... – what is the situation of your parish³?
- Church Reserves – what reserves do you have? Have you made surpluses in recent years?
- What is the shape of your budget? If you hold reserves, a budget does not always need to break even. Indeed, Parish Share should not be the balancing item on your budget.

And finally, some questions as you determine your Parish Share pledge...

- 1) Does our current pledge meet our PMC? If not, why not? Might we be able to exceed PMC so as to support other parishes, especially those in more deprived communities?
- 2) Looking at our finances as a whole in view of the above, do we have the balance right between the amount we pay in parish share and other calls on our expenditure?
- 3) Is our position sustainable? What might need to change over time if we are to be able to reach a sustainable position where our contribution is appropriately close to PMC? (What might the implications be for encouraging giving, for our reserves, for other employees we choose to engage, and for other areas of income or spending?)

¹ More information on how PMC is calculated can be found at www.chichester.anglican.org/PMC

² A "benefice" here is taken to mean the area to which ministry is deployed. It may in some cases be two technical benefices held in plurality.

³ A ranking of the demographics of your parish can be found at www.chichester.anglican.org/parish-demographics

Thank you for taking the time to prayerfully discuss your Parish Share pledge.

Preparing with reflection

Philippians 4:10-20 (NRSV)

- 10 I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.
- 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.
- 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.
- 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
- 14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.
- 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only;
- 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need.
- 17 Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account.
- 18 I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.
- 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.
- 20 To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.



2 Corinthians 8:1-15 (NRSV)

- 1 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.
- 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.
- 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own,
- 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.
- 5 And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.
- 6 So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part.
- 7 But since you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you - see that you also excel in this grace of giving.
- 8 I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others.
- 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.
- 10 And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so.
- 11 Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.
- 12 For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.
- 13 Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality.
- 14 At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality,
- 15 as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little."