
Parish Finances



**A Guide To Church Expenditure
and Our Giving**

The Share

The Share is the name given to the contribution each parish is asked to make to the Diocese.

The word parish is the name given by the Church of England to a geographical area which a church or sometimes a few churches are to serve. Our parish covers the whole of Corfe Mullen geographically, which means that we have a responsibility to serve the whole community of Corfe Mullen and to offer access to information about the Christian faith, worship, baptisms, weddings, funerals and any personal spiritual support requested to any resident of Corfe Mullen and to anyone from outside Corfe Mullen who chooses to come to either St. Hubert's or St. Nicholas. These two churches together form the one Church of England Parish of Corfe Mullen.

We belong to the Diocese of Salisbury. A Diocese is a large geographical area and for us this is Dorset and Wiltshire which together form the Diocese of Salisbury, so all the Church of England

parishes in Dorset and Wiltshire make up what we call the Diocese of Salisbury. Every parish in these two counties contributes its Share to the total Diocesan budget.

The Diocesan budget covers things that are needed by every church in the Diocese and provides certain resources which different parishes need at different times.

The main items provided are:

- ◆ **Clergy** – their pay (called a stipend); National Insurance and pension
- ◆ **Housing for clergy** (so they can live in the parish. Most clergy must now provide their own retirement housing but there are a few residential care homes for clergy supported financially by the national church)
- ◆ **Housing maintenance**
- ◆ **Clergy training** (for new clergy and some in-service training)
- ◆ The **legal department** – for parishes to advise on the law eg health and safety, churchyard and interments, marriage law; lettings etc

- ◆ **The faculty department** – which makes decisions about any changes to buildings or church property.
- ◆ **Child Protection** – advice and CRB check applications. At present all costs for volunteers in parishes are covered from the Diocesan budget so no parish or individual is asked for money for a check.
- ◆ **Ministry support** for parishes – youth, children, etc..

The Share is calculated as follows:

A count is made each year for five weeks of every individual who attends Sunday worship. For us this

includes anyone who comes to 8am St Hubert's, 9.30am St. Nicholas, 11am MADhouse, 6.30pm Evensong. Every individual adult is counted once. Any of those attending who are visitors (e.g. for a baptism) or any members who have attended for less than a year are then taken off the total. An annual charge is then made for each individual. That charge is the same whether people attend weekly, monthly or occasionally. So our count number for 2009 is 154 and our Share amount is £51,917. This comes to £6.50 per week per adult. Our giving has to cover this Share payment as well as our own parish running costs.

4 Ways To Give

- ◆ **Standing Order** - Fill in the '**Bankers Order Form**' to arrange monthly/quarterly/annual payments direct from your bank account.
- ◆ **Weekly Envelope Scheme** - Fill in the '**Weekly Envelopes Form**' to request envelopes which you can use for your giving in church each week.
- ◆ **Gift Aid Declaration** - If you are a taxpayer, fill in the '**Gift Aid Declaration Form**' to give 28p from every £1 donation back to the church. This applies to both **Standing Orders** and the **Weekly Envelope** scheme, but only if you fill out the Gift Aid form
- ◆ **Collection Plate** - Give your donation into the collection plate during one of our services.

Local Costs

Our bills for running St. Nicholas and St. Hubert's are made up of the following:

- ◆ **Insurance** - the total for the 2 churches this year is over £4,000!
- ◆ **Utilities** – gas/oil; electricity; water; telephone
- ◆ **Worship costs** – candles, bread, wine, organ maintenance, organist, choir, bulletin (Flowers are donated separately)
- ◆ **Other running costs** – magazine, cleaning, maintaining garden machinery; annual servicing for fire alarms and lights, boilers, kitchen equipment; copyright licences, materials for children's groups (Sparklers and TNT) and Youth teaching materials (Explosion)

This is a summary of the regular costs we have simply to function at both St. Hubert's and St. Nicholas. This list does not include the many gifts given to support various groups. These are an essential contribution to our church life as are the many hours of voluntary work given which are beyond price. I

hope that this gives us a clearer picture of what the basic unavoidable running costs for the church are and that these are what our weekly giving goes towards.

This is how our running costs break down:

Yearly Running Costs

Insurance	£4,450
Utilities	£15,500
Worship	£540
Music	£2,500
Administration	£1,696
Grounds and cleaning	£2,276
Annual servicing	£1,000
Youth materials	£918
Total Running Costs:	£28,880

This works out at £3.70 per person, per week. If you add to this the £6.50 per person for the share, this works out as a total cost per week of £10.20 per person.

As you can see the major costs are insurance and utilities.

Maintenance, Staffing and Major Purchases

We have seen that the breakdown of regular costs is £10.20 per person per week.

This is the amount we need to receive from our members' giving in order to fulfill our financial responsibilities. To be a viable church and a spiritually healthy church we need to accept that this is the responsibility of each and every member except for those who have no income or are on a very low weekly income.

These running costs need to be distinguished from the expenditure listed below. Our weekly giving only goes towards the running costs. The expenditure below has to be covered from other sources, e.g. specific fundraising events, Legacy funding.

Every parish has expenditure which is not about running costs. This breaks down into five categories:

- ◆ maintenance and repairs;
- ◆ major items – new or replacement;
- ◆ staffing other than clergy
- ◆ mission events
- ◆ grant funded projects

Maintenance and repairs.

Our aim is to cover these from the lettings income at St. Nicholas and through the Friends fund at St. Hubert's.

This means that lettings income cannot be used to subsidise our giving shortfall. This could be done in the first years of the new building as there was no maintenance but now that St. Nicholas needs annual repairs as well as St. Hubert's we have to allocate lettings income to keep the building in good order. This includes keeping St. Nicholas compliant with all legislation regarding buildings used for community lets.

Major items – new or replacement.

Decisions to make such purchases are made by the PCC and some require faculty permission from the Diocese. Money for such items currently comes either from special donations for that purpose (e.g. the puppet theatre) or from our Legacy Funding (e.g. the chairs, the projector equipment; part of the costs of the St Hubert's toilet).

Some money is currently earmarked for work on the kitchen in due course, for example, repairs to

the flooring; replacing the dishwasher and possibly the cooker. The timing of this will depend on the results of various inspections which the kitchen has to have.

Staffing

Staffing costs are made up from different sources depending on the responsibilities of the post. Our Lettings Administrator Shelly is responsible for lettings, invoices and day-to-day finance, so her part-time salary comes from the lettings income as her work is what makes it possible for us to let the building.

(Please note that all our church administration is done on a voluntary basis)

Associate minister salaries (e.g. youthworker, schools worker;

Careforce volunteer etc) come from a variety of sources. These include specific giving for that post (e.g. the Youthworker Fund); the Legacy Funding; or the Willmore Trust, a linked trust fund.

The house which has been purchased to provide accommodation for an associate minister is partly financed through rent and through new income from the Willmore and has also received a specific donation.

Mission events

Examples of these are dreamdays, visits from Riding Lights etc.

These are paid for by any contributions made at the event plus Legacy Funding or Willmore Trust funding.

Discuss Your Giving

If you want to discuss any aspect of your giving, please get in touch with:

Pamela (Rector)

Ian Skinner (Treasurer)

Geoff (Church Warden)

Hilary (Church Warden)

Pamela, Ian, Geoff and Hilary would be more than happy to make the time to meet with you. They can all be reached from our church office. Our number is 01202 602948.

Our Giving

Isn't it strange how we can sometimes enjoy giving presents as much as receiving them but when it comes to giving money to God we may struggle or feel resentful towards the church? Giving money to God, which we do through the church, should bring us as much pleasure as giving someone a present, and it is a tremendous privilege as well. God, who gives us everything, is willing to receive a few pounds a week from us as the way He has chosen to enable His church to be the body of His Son in the world.

The costs which we must cover through weekly giving are the Diocesan Share and our parish running costs. These together come to around £10.20p per head per week.

This may seem a lot but it is nothing compared with the value of our salvation and the cost of that gift to Jesus on the cross. Let us remember to hold the gift of eternal life in one hand and £10.20p in the other and weigh them together. Is £10.20 too great a thank you to God?

give or will only be able to give a little. Jesus understood that profoundly and valued the widow's mite above all other giving. So if we are genuinely in that position the Lord promises that the tiniest amount we give brings Him delight.

Most of us are fortunate to be able to give and every gift is appreciated by God as an offering to Him and we as a parish, in His shadow, are also grateful for every financial gift.

So thank you all for all the money given this year.

Sadly it does not equal £10.20 per head per week. Our total giving divided by the attendance figure used by the Diocese averages out at £4.22 per head per week.

We need to increase our giving to fulfill our commitment to God's Church. Please consider what proportion of your income £10.20 is. What do you buy without much thought for that amount? Would you be pleased or embarrassed to let Jesus look at your finances?



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