



Should I give money to church?



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St Peter's, St Mark's, St Swithun's

Generosity reflects God's character.

Sometimes we talk about God being "gracious" (being good to someone even if they don't really deserve it), as he gives to us freely and abundantly even when we make mistakes, like giving Jesus so that we can have eternal life (John 3:16).

Being a Christian is essentially about following Jesus: his teachings and his actions. Jesus taught against selfishness and greed (Matt. 6:19-21), and is quoted as saying that it's better to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). And Jesus also spent his whole life helping people; he spent time with the poor, and honoured those who were generous with the little

that they had (Luke 21:1-4). Jesus didn't keep any money or possessions for himself, trusting in God to provide what he needed. So, by being generous, looking after each other, and having faith in God, **we become more like Jesus** who lived a life of unconditional, self-giving love.

God trusts us to look after his gifts

(Matt. 25:14-30), so that the whole world would be full of love and goodness. Being generous with our time, skills, possessions and money reminds us that God has graciously given us all these good things, and when we give, we're being thankful to God, and being a blessing to others.

In 2026, across the three churches we expect to spend about **£254,000** on ministry and mission, which is outlined below. This money comes from a few different sources, but we mainly rely on the generosity of individuals as our biggest income. **Your generosity is what makes us able to do as much as we do, within our churches and out in the community. Please take a few moments to reflect on what God has blessed you with, and consider how much you're able to give to help enable our ministry across all of Belper.**



Diocese: Every church in Derbyshire is asked to contribute towards diocesan expenditure, including clergy costs, training, parish support and administration.

Buildings: Our churches are beautiful but costly! There's regular maintenance, equipment costs (for worship and for safety) and increasing utility bills.

Wages: We pay the living wage in gratitude for our employees' hard work: our Parish Administrators who work in the office, and also cleaners, organists, and occasional contractors.

Events: Our events often make a profit, but there are always costs for artists and personnel, insurance, extra equipment, food and drink, etc.

Ministry: This covers all sorts of things, including outreach, expenses, resources, hospitality, website, discipleship, music subscriptions, etc.

Charities: We try to be generous to other groups as people are generous with us, including local charities like Hope for Belper and Blue Box, and international groups like Open Doors and Smiles Romania.

Other: There are a variety of other costs, including legal fees, payroll fees, and administration.

