

ST MARY MAGDALENE, BOLNEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Charitable Giving Policy

- Giving by the church should always be missional, or have a missional aspect to it.
- Our giving should cover the spectrum of very local to national/ international good causes.
- Our giving should include help both to fellow Christians (Gal. 6. 10) and wider human need (Matt. 25.31-40). Sometimes the church is perceived by the wider community as only looking after its own needs. We do have a specific duty (and joy) to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ where they are in need, but seeking to meet wider human need will help to overcome this perception, offer opportunity to work with and befriend people from the wider community.
- Our support for charities should not just be financial, but also include giving of time, skills and material goods. Most importantly, we should encourage the congregation to pray for any commended charities.
- Charities, when agreed, should be commended to the whole congregation as being worthy of support in the name of the church.
- The number of charities/ good causes to be supported should be kept to a small number, in order to avoid dilution of effect.
- None of the above is intended to discourage individual church members from continuing to support causes to which they feel called. We are concerned here with causes which will be supported corporately by the church.

Taking into account all of the above factors, we support the following organisations, all of which we believe to be well-run and in need of funds.

A. We promote FSW, Emmaus, St Peter & St James Hospice (North Chailey), St Catherine's Hospice (Crawley) involving the wider Bolney community in any giving/ fundraising.

- **FSW** Run by our own diocese to meet the requirements of needy families in Sussex, we already encourage the giving of food items. The connection needs strengthening by the **recruitment of a link person from the congregation**, who would act as a channel of communication between the charity and ourselves, encouraging more involvement.
- **Emmaus** An international charity, started by a Catholic priest in Paris in 1949, whose slogan is '*Serve those who suffer most*'. The UK headquarters are in Birmingham, but there is a branch in Brighton, self supporting, where homeless people are given home, work, food and

clothing, and a small allowance, as a stepping stone back to normal life. Support may be given financially, also by the giving and delivering of furniture and household items. We anticipate support for this organisation would be directed to the Brighton branch, but wider support is, of course, possible.

- **St Peter and St James Hospice, North Chailey.** This local hospice supports, empowers and cares for people towards and at the end of life, also supporting carers and families through bereavement. They cover Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill, Uckfield, Lewes and surrounding villages. Support for this charity is mainly financial, but individual church members might be encouraged to get involved in other ways.
- **St Catherine's Hospice, Crawley** This local hospice aims to help everyone face death informed, supported and pain free. Providing expert hospice care, they are there for people in West Sussex and East Surrey when life comes full circle. They also pioneer standards in end of life care through collaboration, research and training, reaching even more people facing death and bereavement.

B. The Barnabas Fund and Wycliffe Bible Translators, in addition to fulfilling our Galatians 6 duties, also help us to grow awareness of the worldwide church in our congregation, and to enhance the sense of truly being one body with all other Christians.

The Barnabas Fund.

The fund exists to provide help to Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith, also to be their voice by making their needs known to governments and international bodies. Barnabas acts as equal partners with the local churches they aid, channelling funds from Christians through Christians to Christians, using existing structures in the countries where aid is sent. There is the possibility of giving generally or to specific projects.

Wycliffe Bible Translators.

1.5 billion people are still without access to the full Bible in their own language. Wycliffe exists to aid translation into some of these languages, working alongside the language communities to achieve this.

C. We may also respond to very small, very local (possibly village-based) causes, as need arises, on an ad hoc basis.

Adopted: 13.1.21 /Review annually: 2nd meeting after each APCM