

But it's not just about money

It's also about our time and our talents. We're also looking for people to help with many other roles within all our churches, a lot of it on Sunday mornings when we're all in church anyway and the more people offering, the less frequently we all have to do it. Jobs include:

- Welcoming people
- Handing out / collecting books
- Reading our bible lessons
- Leading our prayers
- Altar servers
- Choir members / helping with music
- Helping with Sunday School / crèche
- Tea / coffee after services
- Church cleaning and maintenance
- Flower arranging
- Committee members
- Organising social / fundraising events
- Advertising, publicity, social media
- And more ...

**** NB For some roles DBS clearance is essential.**

For further details or to offer help please do see any of our wardens / deputy wardens:

Parish Wardens – Margaret Dolphin / Ed McHale

St. Bartholomew's – Christine Andrews

St. George's – Pat James / Sarah Barry

St. Thomas' – Tim Browning / Janet Perfect

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Parish of St Bartholomew Westhoughton
St Bartholomew St Thomas St George



STEWARDSHIP

As we come to the final quarter of the year, it's a good time to look again at our stewardship.

Churches rely heavily on the generosity of their members. Running churches isn't cheap and we still have bills to pay even at St. Thomas' and St. George's churches which meet in schools.

Between our three churches we have to pay our Parish Share of £53,000 this year [just over £1,000 per week] which helps to meet the costs of our clergy and clergy houses and supports church schools and projects throughout the Diocese.

We also have our heating, lighting, water and insurance bills on top of routine church expenses.

To do this we need regular and planned giving from individuals to keep the buildings open for worship as a beacon of the life, light and love of Jesus in our parish.



How to give

You can give in several ways:

- putting cash on the plate during the collections at our Sunday services
- becoming part of a **planned giving scheme** – ask for a pack of weekly envelopes and decide on a regular commitment. You can use these throughout the year, even on Sundays when you can't make it to church.
- setting up a standing order / direct debit to pay your donations each week or month directly to our bank accounts. Switching to direct debits gives you the option to increase your gift to the church annually which helps us cover our costs and develop new activities *[direct debit not available at St. George's]*.

Planned giving is best for us as it allows us to budget throughout the year and demonstrates a commitment to good stewardship.

If you pay tax, then you are eligible to **Gift Aid** your giving. By signing a simple form, we can reclaim from the Inland Revenue 25p for each £1 that you give. One-off donations can be Gift Aided using the envelopes available – just complete your name and address on the front.

Who to see

For further details, please speak to any of our Finance team:

St. Bartholomew's – Elaine Simkin / Andrew Jolley

St. George's – John Thompson

St. Thomas' – Claire Smith / Janet Perfect

or any of the wardens / deputy wardens

How much to give

“Each of us must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9.7

The advice of St Paul gives us some guidance on thinking through an issue on which Christians hold different views. It is helpful to think about two particular questions:

1. where does giving to God come in my financial priorities?
2. does my current level of giving reflect how much we value our faith and our church?

Giving is an act of faith and trust and scripture teaches the principle of proportional giving i.e. giving a percentage of our disposable income (*income after paying tax / national insurance*). **As a parish we have never told anyone how much to give** – we know that everyone's circumstances are different and that we are in challenging financial times. The table below just provides a rough guide, however, to working out weekly giving [52 weeks per year].

Annual income after tax	Weekly giving 1%	Weekly giving 5%
£5,000	£1	£4.80
£10,000	£1.75	£9.25
£20,000	£3.25	£16.50
£30,000	£4.75	£18.80