

Funeral Collections in the Stanwick Group of Churches Parishes (Aldbrough, Forcett, Melsonby)

The vicar and Parochial Church Council (PCC) of (*Church name*) acknowledge that relatives of the deceased may wish to ask those attending the funeral or memorial service for their loved one, to donate to a charity of their choice, often with which there is some link to the deceased or their family.

The strictly legal position for such donations is that the PCC is accountable for all money collected within the church and must record its collection and disbursement. However, the vicar and PCC jointly have taken the decision that they will allow such collections to be donated in their entirety to a registered charity of the bereaved family's choice provided that:

1. The cause is not inconsistent with the morals, ethics and beliefs upheld by the Church of England
2. The cause is apolitical
3. The cause to which the donation is to be made is made known to the PCC in advance and announced at the service prior to the collection being made
4. All moneys collected on the church premises are handled by the PCC and are accounted for accordingly.

However please also be aware that any such donations made using the printed envelopes with a Gift Aid declaration on them that can be found in the pews, are clearly printed as being for (parish name) church and so must be retained for church funds. The money forwarded to the requested charity may not be eligible for Gift Aid.

Donations are always sent to the appropriate charities as soon as possible with a request that a letter of thanks from the charity is also sent to the bereaved family or other specified person.

In the past it has been the practice for the PCC to retain 50% of funeral and memorial service collections for church funds and to forward the rest to the charity of choice. This is no longer the case, and the whole sum in the loose plate collection (i.e. excluding donations in the church's Gift Aid envelopes) will now be given to the specified charity. Nevertheless, should bereaved families wish to support the Parish Church with part or even all the collection given in memory of their loved one, it will be most gratefully received and well used by the PCC for the upkeep and development of the church in this community.

13 October 2018