

# Sermon Outline (2) (March)

Also available online at [www.manchester.anglican.org/finance](http://www.manchester.anglican.org/finance)

## Giving for the Future of the Church

**Suggested Passages: John 3:16; Matthew 28: 19-20; Psalm 24:1; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8: 1-9)**

When the Church is being increasingly challenged financially, it would be all too easy to forget that Christian giving is not primarily about making ends meet but about our response to God's goodness and every Christian's responsibility for resourcing the Church's God-given mission.

### 1. Why Give?

Our giving is an essential ingredient of Christian discipleship; a reflection of our love of God and an expression of our gratitude for His most precious gift, redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ. **(John 3: 16)**

### 2. What are we Giving for?

We, God's people in the Church of England, give our money not primarily to balance the books but to resource the Church's mission. Jesus calls his disciples to mission: **(Matthew 28: 19-20)** To respond to our Lord's call to mission we have to properly equip ourselves for proclamation, witness, teaching and care and concern for all.

### 3. The parish's plans for building a strong parish Community

### 4. God has entrusted resources to us

- Everything comes from God (including our money) **(Deuteronomy 8: 17-18)**
- We therefore give to God of His own **(1 Chronicles 29:14)**
- Everything comes under God's sovereign rule. **(Psalm 24:1)**
- We are Stewards and are called to use the resources that God has entrusted to us for His purposes.

### 5. How to give

- No one can tell any one how much to give, each must decide for themselves **2 Corinthians 9:7)**
- Paul's direction to the Corinthian church: **(1 Corinthians 16:2)**
  - every member of the Church
  - regular.
  - budgeted (set aside, not from our leftovers)
  - a realistic proportion of what we have at our disposal
- Giving should be from the heart, generous and sacrificial. When did any of us recently give up (sacrifice) something in order to make our gift? **(2 Corinthians 8: 1-4)**
- Jesus is our example to follow **(2 Corinthians 8:9)**

### 6. Our response

As Christians we need to review our giving regularly and seek God's guidance on this important aspect of our discipleship. Let us, through prayer, ask God to guide and inspire our own response to the financial challenges facing the Church in our diocese, so that we are properly resourced to respond to our Lord's call to mission.