



A personal message from the Bishop of Manchester

I thank God for all you give to your church, both in time and money.

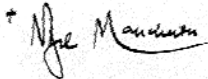
In these difficult economic times it is a tribute to each congregation in this Diocese that, in faith, you manage to fund the activities of your local church.

It is my prayer that you will be able to continue to support your church in whatever way you can. It is my prayer that churches in this Diocese will see their congregations grow, serve their community and see an increase in their giving.

It may be that as a result of a change in your circumstances you need to review your giving. Perhaps you are able to offer your church more support through the gift of your time and talents in addition to your financial contribution.

In whatever circumstances you presently find yourself please be assured of my prayers.

At the bottom of this letter you will see a detachable prayer card. Please keep it and pray for the mission of your church and for an increase in giving from those who can. Your giving has a vital role, and it does make a difference to your community.

Yours in Christ,  Bishop Nigel

Why do you give to your church?

People give to their church for different reasons. Some, striving to be faithful to the call of Scripture want to thank God through His Church for the help they have received, some want to further the mission of the Church, some because church is a force for good in their community and the world.

Your giving does make a difference. Your giving means that together churches in this diocese perform a large amount of ministry every year. Just look at how much service and mission we give to the region:

- 33,000 people worship in our churches every week (51,400 at Christmas)
- We take over 5,000 baptisms, 2,500 weddings and 6,000 funerals a year
- We are involved with the education of over 55,000 children
- We have over 300 paid clergy and a further 400 people licensed to take services
- We have over 340 places of worship and 400 houses to maintain
- We run nearly 200 church schools

So give thanks and please pray that together we can meet the challenges ahead.



I give because I want to see my church grow ...



I give because my church has given me support ...

“For this service you perform not only meets the needs of God's people, but also produces an outpouring of gratitude to God.”

2 Corinthians 9:12 TEV

A prayer for your church

Lord God,
creator and giver of all good things,
bless your church.
Strengthen our faith,
renew our hope
inspire our love,
so that, enabled by your Spirit
and following the way of your Son,
we may serve our communities
grow your church,
and give wholly of ourselves,
for your glory and the sake of your Kingdom.
Amen.



How church finances work

There are three pillars to finance in the Church of England:

1. Parish Finances

Donating money to your church contributes to all it does in providing ministry to you and your community.

2. Mutual Support

As well as supporting the work of your local church, a part of your donation goes toward the costs of the 700 ministers working in the diocese. These costs include ongoing education and other support costs. In addition, about 300 clergy also have housing, pensions and an income called a stipend to be paid for.

Some of your donation may go towards supporting the 130 less well off churches in the diocese. A system called Parish Share calculates how much money wealthier churches should donate. This idea is called mutual support and is a key feature of Church of England finances where giving and spirituality meet.

Mutual support is also provided by the Cathedral in its role as Mother Church and from officers based at Church House who serve the parishes in their work.

3. Investments and Grants

On behalf of all the churches in the diocese, Church House collects national grants worth £2.5 million and £1.6 million from investments and property. The value of the grants and investments saves your church an average of £12,540 each year.



I give because God blesses the good we do

Where all the money goes

Most of the money you give is spent on the ordained ministry of the Church. The diocese collects money from parishes to pay the stipends, pensions, housing and ordination training of the clergy. Much smaller amounts are spent on diocesan support for parishes and funding of the National Church. The money collected from parishes is called Parish Share.

The diocese collects £7.2 million from churches to provide mutual support, through Parish Share. This money was spent in the following ways:

This money was spent in the following ways:

- 55% was spent on Clergy Stipends, National Insurance and pensions
- 11% was spent on Clergy housing
- 4% was spent on Clergy Training
- 25% was spent on Diocesan Support for Parishes
- 5% was spent on National Church

Last year the highest Parish Share received was £196,262 and the lowest was £403
For detailed financial information visit www.manchester.anglican.org/finance



I give to my church because it is a force for good in the world

In the next two years

With the credit crunch hitting every community, each church will face difficult decisions. There are still bills to pay, making sure the church is warm, sharing riches with poorer parishes or paying for the costs of clergy and ministry through the Parish Share system.

Church House is working hard to reduce costs, to secure more grants into the diocese and making sure our investments produce as much money as possible, to subsidise parishes even more.

Use the prayer card to the right to help you pray for those in need and to pray for the resources we need to support ministry in your local church and across



Detach the prayer card below

A prayer

Lord, you have given us all we have,
Time, talent, health, wealth,
Gifts in abundance.

Just as you have given generously to us,
So may we return generously to you.

We make our prayer through your most gracious gift to us,
Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

