



## Revision C

Issue date – November 2020

Revision date – November 2021

Review date 24 January 2023

## Document change record

Revision	Date	Change	Reason For Change
A	Nov 2020	Omitted aspirational budget target	First Issue
B	Nov 2021	Omitted details of giving in 2019	
C	Jan 2023	Reinstate aspirational budget target, and administration procedures	Administration of giving proved to be inadequate

## Mission Giving policy

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### **Living generously is the Christian response to a generous God.**

As the Anglican Parish Church of Wash Common we seek to be generous in all that we do, using our resources, our time and talents, as well as our money, to serve others.

St George the Martyr is a charity and, as such, has a legal duty to use its resources exclusively to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The primary focus as an Anglican Church is the parish and its needs, extending beyond that to support the mission of the wider church in the relief of need and service of others.

The Church seeks to facilitate and encourage generous living and giving in all its forms. This is done through, for example, the amount of time given in volunteer roles, and the use of Church facilities and buildings by other community groups, churches and charities.

As a charity itself, with no other income than what is generated locally, St George's Church is a testament to the sacrificial giving of parishioners over many years and relies entirely on this ongoing generosity. This gives St George's a special responsibility to be wise and careful stewards of all its resources, including good stewardship of the environment. Investment in becoming a carbon neutral church is part of this overall vision.

Over the coming years St George's will continue to develop its plans as a place of welcome and relevance investing in accessibility and hospitality, while also deepening community links with other charities locally and further afield.

As a *parish* church the primary focus is to serve the people of Wash Common and to be a force for good locally, especially in terms of helping those in greatest need and sharing the good news of God's love for all people. There is also a special responsibility to be generous in support of St John's Church which is part of the same Benefice and of other churches in the Newbury Deanery.

A further expression of this mission to serve others is to donate money to specific charities, focussing on those charities which cohere most closely with St George's remit as an Anglican church<sup>1</sup>.

In all these matters it is the role of the St George's Parochial Church Council (PCC) to ensure that a consistent, transparent, and fair approach is taken in the fulfilment of the Church's vision and values. Good stewardship and generosity are its guiding principles inspired by the abundant generosity of a Christlike God.

St. George's Parochial Church Council

24 January 2023

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<sup>1</sup> The St George's Church Policy on financial donations to other charities is reviewed by the PCC annually.



### St George's Church Policy on financial donations to other charities

In addition to all the usual channels through which St George's Church serves others, and being mindful of the need for prudence in maintaining a small cash reserve, as well as demonstrating good stewardship, the policy of the PCC is to be as generous as possible to other charities, prioritising those which cohere most closely with the Church's remit and mission. Our aspiration is that at least 10 per cent of (gross regular income, less the Parish Share) is allocated in the Budget in November each year to such charitable giving.<sup>2</sup>

The PCC makes decisions about sums given to specific third-party charities as part of the overall expression of St George's Christian concern to serve others.

#### The PCC Policy for Giving to other charities:

##### Core focus:

- Wash Common and local (Newbury and West Berkshire) charities which cohere with the aims and values of the Church, for example: Newbury YMCA, Bus of Hope, West Berkshire Homeless, Newbury CAP Debt counselling Centre
- Charities connected to the Anglican Church, for example: The Children's Society, Mothers' Union, PACT, Christians Against Poverty, USPG
- National and international charities when there is a strong connection to aspects of the work and mission of St George's.

##### Criteria and protocols:

1. The organisation concerned must be a registered charity of demonstrable good standing and governance.
2. The charity must broadly cohere with the remit, vision and values of St George's Church but might not be overtly Christian.
3. Charities are selected that rely on the support of churches (as opposed to those charities which have existing mainstream networks of support).
4. Our aim is to offer strong support to a few charities so that they can have reliable income rather than giving small sums to a wider number of charities. Consideration will be given to focussing where funds can make most impact and where St George's can be more involved than simply handing over money.
5. In the interests of transparency, and to ensure a coordinated allocation of funds, all events, other than those specifically designated as raising funds for the Church, organised by parishioners under the auspices of St George's church, must be referred to the Incumbent for approval and proceeds paid into St George's bank account. The Treasurer will make the approved payments direct to the charity concerned.
6. In the case of emergency appeals the payment will usually be made to the government-controlled Disaster Emergency Committee. The Incumbent/PCC will always consider the wishes of people organising any church event and be fair and reasonable in the decisions made.

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<sup>2</sup> Gross regular income comprises overall giving to the Church, plus investment income, the Feed in Tariff, Renewable Heat Source Tariff and Gift Aid recovered. Income from renting the Hall, restricted income, including donations and matching funding for capital projects, and retiring collections are not to be included in this allocation. Non-recurring income, such as a bequest, is also not included.

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7. In November each year the PCC will review mission giving as part of the budget setting process. The review will include recommendations to the PCC from the Giving to other Charities Co-ordination Group<sup>i</sup> as to which charities should be prioritised for external donations.
8. Also in November the Treasurer will report to the PCC summarising the actual Mission Giving activities in the current year, compared to the aspirational budget at the beginning of the year.

St. George's Parochial Church Council

24 January 2023

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<sup>i</sup> Giving to other Charities Co-ordination Group is a group of 2 or 3 volunteers from St George's who assist the PCC in ensuring good and timely decisions are made in line with the Mission Giving Policy. They also help to raise the profile of all aspects of giving with the wider congregation – e.g. through the website and newsletter updates, guest speakers and displays in church. Ideally one member of the Group should also be on the PCC.