

Ruscombe & Twyford PCC
Mission and Charity Giving Policy

Background

This updated policy reflects the decisions made by the PCC at their meeting of 2nd June 2014.

Purpose

The PCC on behalf of the congregations of St James' and St Mary's remains committed to tithing its income to support Christian mission and charities throughout the world.

The Policy

1. **10% Giving Target.** At the time of agreeing the annual budget, the PCC will set a Giving Target for the year of 10% of forecast unrestricted income (i.e. excluding monies donated for a specific purpose).
2. **5% Fundraising Target.** Initially, half of the Giving Target will be budgeted to come from PCC funds with the remaining half becoming the Fundraising Target.
3. The PCC will support four Christian Mission partners per year and a select number of additional charities.

Selection of Mission partners

4. Given the shortfall in fundraising during 2013, the PCC has decided to encourage greater congregational participation in the selection of the Mission partners whilst balancing the need to develop strong relationships with these Missions over time.
5. On a biennial basis, the PCC will select three of the existing Mission partners to be retained for the following two calendar years. The three selected by the PCC for 2015 and 2016 are the Church Army, Wycliffe and Yeldall.
6. The Discipleship Groups will then each be asked to nominate a fourth Christian Mission partner. The list of nominees, together with the previous Mission partner at risk of de-selection (the Church Mission Society in the first instance), will be put to members of the Electoral Roll to vote on. The most popular choice will be approached by the Mission Co-Ordinator to become the fourth Mission partner. In the event that they are not willing or able to fulfil the role, the second most popular choice will be approached (and so on).

Selection of charities

7. The PCC will allocate 5% of the Giving Target to the Berkshire Clergy charity.

8. The PCC supports the allocation of the proceeds of the October Harvest collection (whether funds and/or goods) to a charity of the LEP's choice.
9. The PCC supports the allocation of 50% of the proceeds of the Crib and Carols For All Christmas services to a charity of the LEP's choice (the other 50% going to church funds).
10. The PCC also recognises that there will be special occasions when it is deemed appropriate to fundraise for or allocate the proceeds of particular services to additional charities on an ad hoc basis and these will also count towards the Fundraising Target.

Additionally supported missions and charities

11. In addition, each year the PCC will continue to support *Christian Aid's* campaign in May and the *Earl Haigh Poppy Appeal* in November, but these are in addition to the Giving Target (as they are broader community fundraising events rather than congregational).

Mission services and fundraising

12. To enable the congregations to learn more about the Mission partners and to be inspired by what God is doing through them, each of the four will be the focus of one service a year with visiting speakers invited. The collections for each service (excluding monthly and weekly stewardship envelopes) will be given to the relevant Mission partner.
13. The PCC will also encourage separate fundraising events for each of the Mission partners.
14. Whilst maintaining the 10% Giving Target, the medium to long term intention is to increase the level of congregational support and fundraising for the Mission Partners and to reduce the level of direct giving by the PCC.
15. The PCC currently retains a Mission Visits Reserve of £4,008, which the PCC may use to support any members of the congregation in visiting a particular Mission partner or one of their projects. It is not proposed to increase this reserve at the present time.

Payments

16. When the PCC accepts the annual accounts, it will confirm the final direct PCC allocation to be made to the Mission partners based on the actual unrestricted income recorded.
17. If the Fundraising Target is not met in any year, the PCC will decide whether or not to make up the shortfall out of its own funds and how this is apportioned between the Mission partners.

18. If the overall Fundraising Target has been reached, the PCC will not make up any shortfall of any particular Mission partner's target.

19. If the total Giving Target has been exceeded, the PCC will reduce its direct allocation such that the total giving matches the Giving Target. The PCC will decide how the reduction of the direct allocation will be apportioned between the Mission partners.

Example

20. Based on forecast unrestricted income of £150,000, the Giving Target would be £15,000 and the following is an example of its potential target allocation:

	PCC Direct Giving	Fundraising Target	Total
Mission			
<i>Church Army</i>	£1,687.50	£1,562.50	£3,250
<i>Church Mission Society</i>	£1,687.50	£1,562.50	£3,250
<i>Wycliffe Bible Translators</i>	£1,687.50	£1,562.50	£3,250
<i>4.</i>	£1,687.50	£1,562.50	£3,250
Charity			
<i>Berkshire Clergy Charity</i>	£750		£750
<i>Harvest collection</i>		£500	£500
<i>Crib & Carols collections (50%)</i>		£500	£500
<i>Ad hoc fundraising/collections</i>		£250	£250
Total	£7,500	£7,500	£15,000