



## Parish Offer 2026

### Our Common Fund for a common purpose Resourcing God's mission in Hereford Diocese Discussion points for a PCC

The questions below are **suggestions** for your PCC agenda when you meet to discuss and prayerfully decide your Parish Offer contribution for the year ahead. It is unlikely you will use all the questions in the same PCC meeting, so choose the ones you think will be most useful in helping PCC members to understand how we fund our Diocese and the vital contribution your PCC can make to resource mission and ministry in Hereford Diocese.

There are more verses in the Bible about money and possessions than there are about anything else except love. Jesus tells us in John's gospel that he "came that [we] may have life, and have it abundantly", and in Matthew's gospel that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also". How much does our giving reflect what is really important to us?

#### Individual giving

*"If my giving were returned to me each week or month, would it make any real difference to me?"* If the answer is no, perhaps we need to think again about our giving. Or, to ask a different question, *"what would my regular giving to my church buy if I spent it on myself?"* Again, if the answer is 'not so much', perhaps we need to think again.

#### Questions:

- How do you decide how much to give the church each week or month? Is it what you have left in your pocket, or do you calculate what proportion of your income you will give? The Bible talks of tithing as a first principle, and data from the Church of England suggest that 3% of nett income is a helpful minimum target for giving to your church.
- If you calculate it, how often do you review it?
- If you have a bank account but still give by putting money in the collection plate, what might be the advantages to you and to the church of contributing regularly via the Parish Giving Scheme or via a standing order instead?

#### The need

- Do all PCC members understand the cost of ministry in this parish/benefice and the way in which we finance our local mission and ministry in Hereford Diocese?
- Do PCC members understand that ministry costs are likely to increase over time?
- Do churchgoers and visitors know how the church is funded, and is it easy for them to give?
- Are we intentional about how we describe the positive difference our church makes in our community, and do we invite people to join in with what God and his church are doing?
- Is it clear to our churchgoers and visitors what would happen if our giving to the church

and our Parish Offer to support ministry were to fall?

- Has the PCC completed the House for Good's [social value calculator](#), which shows the return on every pound invested in your church?

### **Thinking charitably**

- PCCs are charity trustees, whether or not they are separately registered with the Charity Commission. Do all PCC members think like charity trustees when they are considering how to raise money and how to prioritise spending?
- Does the PCC have a reserves policy that considers what a reasonable level of reserve could be (e.g. 6-12 months' running costs), so that expenditure on the core charitable object of ministry and mission is prioritised?
- When PCC members consider what prompts them to give to other charities, are those same reasons (e.g. need, trust, and a request for support) reflected in how and why they and others give to their local church?

### **Our financial potential**

- Are our church members giving generously to the church?
- What other sources of income do we have?
- How have our sources of income increased or decreased over the past two or three years, and do we know why?
- Are we regularly inviting people to leave a gift in their will or to review their giving?

### **Existing commitments**

- What have we agreed to give towards ministry and mission in Hereford Diocese this year?
- What commitments (if any) have we made for future years?
- What issues suggest that we should increase or reduce our contribution?
- Are we meeting the aspiration as a benefice of being self-financing and contributing beyond that to support other churches which are struggling (2 Corinthians 8-9)?
- What will we commit, and how we explain our commitment to our congregation and visitors as well as clergy and lay leaders across our deanery?

### **Our Parish Offer to the Common Fund**

Every parish is invited to make a commitment no later than **30 June 2025** to our Common Fund for 2026. Every Church of England diocese has a 'Common Fund' (or equivalent) from which stipends and associated ministry costs are paid. We need to think carefully and prayerfully how we use God's gifts to us to further the work of the church in our diocese, and how we relate to and support each other within parishes, benefices and deaneries.

It's not uncommon for Parish Offer contributions to total <60% of a church's annual expenditure budget. Ideally, most of this will be covered by regular giving through standing orders and the Parish Giving Scheme, leaving other running costs such as insurance and maintenance supported by fundraising and wider giving from the community and visitors. It is good practice to budget for what you would like your Parish Offer to be, bearing in mind the total cost of ministry in your deanery and then to invite people to review their regular giving to meet this need.