



Thank you so much for taking the time to read through this important booklet. We pray that you will find it inspiring and encouraging as you grow in your Christian faith. May God bless you with all spiritual blessing.

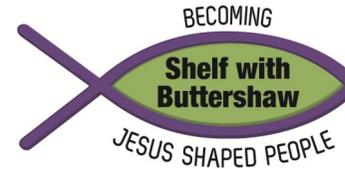
A Prayer

*All generous God, you poured yourself out in creation;
You gave your Son to die for us on the cross and you
continue to give yourself to us through the gift of your
Holy Spirit.*

*Give us generous hearts; that in response to your love,
our lives may overflow in thanksgiving and generosity,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen

Do you have a smile on your face?



***St Michael's & St Aidan's
Church of England***



***Giving Puts A Smile
On Your Face!***

Why you have been given this booklet?

We hope that you will find some time to prayerfully read through this booklet that deals with the subject of 'giving to God'. There is lots of information regarding the financial situation we find ourselves in at St Michael's and St Aidan's and an encouragement to review your giving. We are sure that you will agree with us that the continuation of ministry here is of great importance. Without your help however, this is never guaranteed (there are plenty of ex-churches in Bradford and Halifax) and so please respond to this important appeal.

Being a Christian involves us in many important life-changing decisions. We consider our relationship with God and with our neighbours (Luke 10:27). We look into our hearts to question our feelings and actions. We question life's priorities.

Importantly we give thanks for all that God has given us; for our families, friends, homes and livelihoods.

We must also review our relationship with all that we are and all that we have.

If we believe the church should be at work in our community we will want to see that the work is properly financed.

The way we respond to this challenge shows the strength of our relationship with God.

This booklet is called 'Giving Puts a Smile on your Face' because in 2 Corinthians chapter 9 and verse 7 St Paul writes:

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

How do I go about it?

Review your giving regularly.

Ask yourself 'how much do I give now as a percentage of my income? Does it meet the Apostle Paul's principles on the previous page? Can I give more? Can I increase my weekly or monthly giving to St Michael's / St Aidan's?'

Join the planned giving scheme if you are not in it already.

This will mean that you can contribute to church on a regular basis whether you are in church every week or not. By making a bankers standing order. (A form is with this booklet). This way makes it easier for the treasurer and you won't need to scramble around on Sundays for the right amount. An alternative way to give regularly is to use the enveloped scheme. Please ask for details.

Let the parish recover tax paid in the form of Gift Aid.

If you pay tax on your pay, pension or savings and investments, then HM's Revenue and Customs will refund to the parish the tax you have already paid.

Please note that even if someone doesn't pay tax on their pension, they may still be paying tax on their savings and investments.

At current tax levels, this means that if you pay tax the parish gets an extra 25p on every £1 that you give.

It makes sense to fill in a Gift Aid Form. After all, HM Revenue & Customs only need your name, address and signature. There's no commitment to a timescale and you can change it at any time.



If we give meanly, we cannot think much of God.

If we give generously, we are showing that we have committed ourselves, and all that we have, to His work and glory.

Through careful thought and prayer we will find the answer.

These principles taught in St Paul's second letter to the Corinthians may help:

- *For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability*
- *God's work is to be resourced in time and money by each member of the church.*
- *Our giving should be regular, like your home, your church income needs to be known.*
- *It should be budgeted.*
- *It should be a realistic proportion of what we have.*
- *Our giving should be cheerful and not reluctant or because we feel guilty.*
- *It should be generous and sacrificial.*

Why do we give to the church?

Do we give to pay the share?

Well... Yes we have to pay the share, but we do not give because of that.

Do we give to pay for the upkeep of the church buildings?

Well.... Yes but we do not give because of that, although clean, warm, dry and welcoming buildings do encourage worship and good Christian fellowship.

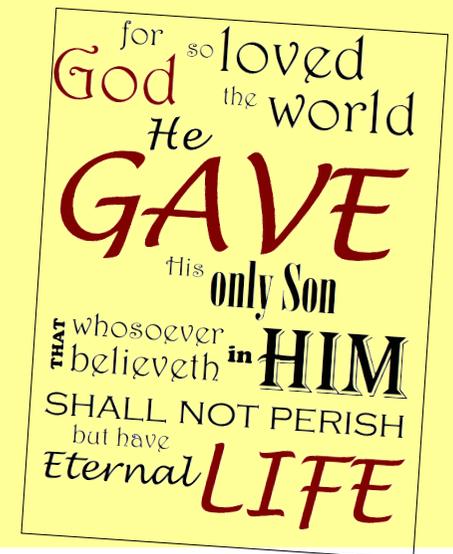
Do we give to pay for the excellent children's work at our churches?

Well... Yes, but we do not give because of that, although it is right for us to make worship accessible to people of all ages. Church is a place where children worship as well as adults.

So why do we give then?

The answer is easy! We give in response to the boundless love of God. We make our gifts in response to the greatest gift ever made in history; the gift of the Son of God, Jesus, who died for us that we may have eternal life.

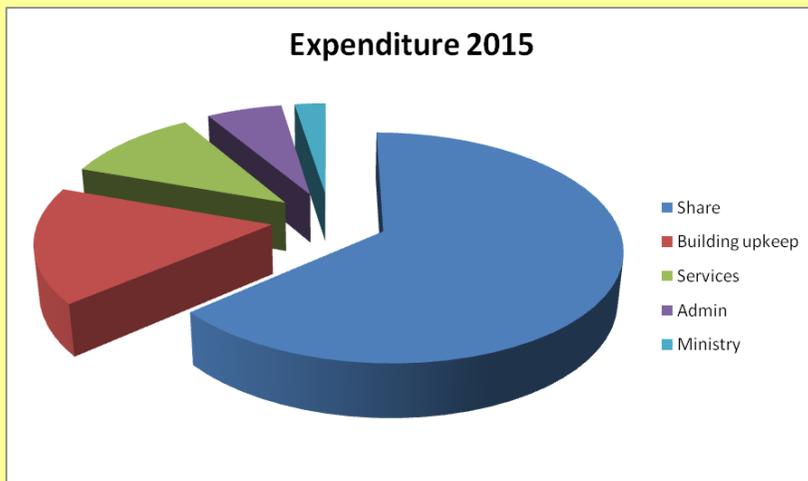
That's why we give!



What is the cost of running our Parish this year?

So there is a spiritual aspect to why we give, we give because God first gave to us but we also give so that we can continue to be effective Christians here in our parish and to carry on our great commission to 'go into the world making disciples'.

Here is the estimated expenditure for 2015.



Share	£40,700
Buildings	£10,620
Service	£7,000
Admin	£3,900
Ministry	£1,600
Total	£63,820

That is £1220 per week, 52 weeks a year.

The church gives us no help in deciding what we should give.

The General Synod has recommended that we give at least 5% of our net income to the church. (Net income is our income after income tax and national insurance has been deducted). Only through prayer and careful thought can we know if that is too little or too much in our circumstances. It also recommends that if we want to tithe (give 10%), then the other 5% should be given to a charity of your choice.



- Contact with 3 Nursing Homes (Springfield, Cooper house and the Beeches) including monthly services
- Home Communion to housebound people
- Visiting by both lay and ordained people to people in their homes and hospital
- Spiritual Direction
- Cursillo Group (Marion is the Cursillo Area Spiritual Director)
- Fundraising and Social events
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Mothers' Union
- Relationships with the wider church e.g. link dioceses, our diocese, deanery and other denominations
- Service of memories
- Occasional choir events
- Zephaniah Trust and Bradford City Football Club Chaplain

Some Common Myths

The Church of England is wealthy, it doesn't need my money!

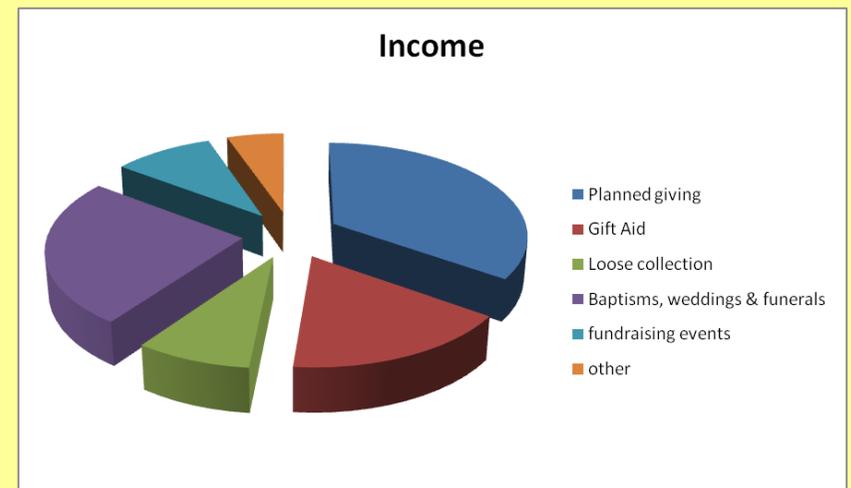
The income from the Church of England's investments does not even fully pay for clergy pensions. Some help is given to the poorer Dioceses, such as ours but it is modest.

The parish share is a tax from which we see no benefit.

The share comes back to our parish to pay for our clergy, including the housing and pension costs. The church is a community in which the wealthier parishes help the poorer ones, but we should all do what we can. (see 2 Corinthians chapter 8 for a biblical example of this)

What is our projected income this year if nothing changes?

So, let's make a little projection on what we expect to take in this year. This is based on previous giving figures, the number of weddings, funerals, gift aid, etc.



Planned giving	£16,500
Gift aid	£8,000
Loose collections	£4,000
Baptisms etc	£12,000
Fundraising events	£4,500
Other	£2,550
Total	£47,550

That is £915 per week. Which means we are currently running at a deficit of £305 per week.

A bit of information about what we spend your gift on.

You will have noticed that the largest part of our expenditure goes on “**Diocesan Share**”. So what is that?

The Church of England believes that God wants us to minister to people the length and breadth of the country whether they are poor or rich, whether they can afford it or not.

The way it works is this. Each Diocese (a large group of parishes like ours) works out a budget, how much it will cost to pay, train and house ministers across the Diocese and contribute to their pensions.

Then the Dioceses work out a system whereby each parish pays a share according to their ability to pay. Different dioceses use different methods to calculate how to share it out but all of them try to find a fair way of doing it.

So this year for example, we have been asked to pay £40,700 Diocesan Share. Of course that isn't enough to pay and house the two ministers we have so other more wealthy parishes pay towards the shortfall between what the parish of Shelf with Buttershaw pays and what it costs. We are net beneficiaries of the Share system.

We believe then that it is important that we give priority to trying to pay our share especially as it doesn't cover what it costs the Diocese to have two full time ministers in this large parish of about 21,000 people. If we had to pay the cost of our own ministers we could barely afford one minister.

Other central costs and Diocesan staff are met from investments, fees and grants from the Church nationally.

If St Michael's & St Aidan's weren't here there wouldn't be ministry

On Sundays

- At St Aidan's 10.15 a.m. Eucharist 6.30 p.m. Church Live
- At St Michael's 1015 Eucharist

Midweek

- Eucharists Wednesday and Thursday at St Michael's
- Messy Church at St Aidan's Tuesday 4.30 p.m. at St Aidan's Term time
- Small Beginnings for babies, children and adults Wednesdays 9.30 a.m. at St Michael's Term Time

.....And all the other Activities

- Tuesday Shelf Drop in at St Michael's Coffee and Chat
- Home Groups
- Start Groups
- Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals
- Prayer Team, Prayer Chain, Prayer Tree
- Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.
- St Michael's School governors (including the Rector and a warden is the chair).
- Weekly Assemblies, classes, visits to church and services in church.
- Contacts with Shelf J & I, Reeve Hill, Stocks Lane, Wood side and Home Farm primary schools including assemblies, visits to church and occasionally lessons.