



# Freewill Offering: a summary

From 2014, the funding of mission and ministry in the Diocese of York will be approached in a different way. Instead of each Deanery being allocated an amount of parish share to pay, each parish will be invited to make their own Freewill Offering to the Common Fund.

The aim of our Diocese is to be Generous Churches Making and Nurturing Disciples. Money is just there to fund our mission. With Freewill Offering, PCCs will be able to make an informed decision on what to give to the Common Fund, and then focus on the important business of the church - growing, and making and nurturing disciples.

Parish Share has served us well, but it's time to move on. Lots of parishes feel it is a tax on growth, and a penalty on good performance. Unlike Parish Share, Freewill offering is focussed on mission and growth.

Freewill Offering means that parishes have more freedom to give to the Common Fund, but also more responsibility. The ministry of the Diocese depends on people continuing to be generous.

PCCs will still need to cover their legal obligations - insurance, heating and lighting for the church - but will also need to make a generous offer to the Common Fund. Supporting the Common Fund still has to be the highest possible priority for all churches.

The Common Fund is the pot that all parishes pay into, and that funds mission and ministry in every parish across the Diocese. We all pay into the Common Fund, and we all get resources out of the Common Fund. To find out more about what this money funds, you can watch the DVD on "Where your money goes" or read more in the toolkit booklet that's been given to PCCs.

It's not a top down system. Just as we ask people who come to church to be generous with their giving, PCCs are being asked to be generous with their giving to the Common Fund.

All PCCs will make their offer in a different way, but it might help to follow these steps:

- Pray about your church, and the offer you should make
- Focus on the mission of your church, and make the best offer you can
- Use the information in the data sheet and toolkit booklet to check your offer is reasonable and generous.

There is no magic formula for coming up with an offer. It really will be through prayer and thought. If your PCC needs help deciding how to make an offer, your Deanery Financial Advisor or Rural Dean will be able to help. Rural Deans and DFAs are holding meetings in their Deaneries to help parishes make their offer, and are available to help if you need their assistance. Please do make contact with them if you need their help.