

CHARITABLE GIVING POLICY

Updated by the PCC on 5th February 2018

Our Nominated Charities

Each year St Michael's selects a number of charities to support. Each year we model Christian giving as a church community by giving away 5% of donated income - not forgetting all the other giving that takes place such as special collections, volunteering and discounts for charities to use our facilities

Charitable events through the year include:

- **Harvest:** Food collection goes to a local charity or foodbank.
- **Welcare:** The diocesan charity, a contribution is made annually from parish funds as with all churches in the diocese.
- **Bishop Lent Call:** Each Lent there is a retiring collection on Passion Sunday – with information being put out at the start of Lent for people to support personally.
- **Lent Lunches:** Money collected from these goes directly to our nominated charities of the year.
- **Special and emergency collections:** As necessary through the year in response to particular disasters and need.
- **Celebration of Giving:** Each October there are displays, speakers, and an opportunity to give to our nominated charities directly.
- **Cloister events** such as Plant Sale or barbecue. E.g. in 2017 we held a plant sale for the Mulberry Centre.

Guidelines for selection

Each year (starting in Lent) the PCC will seek nominations for new charities to support, and will invite members of the congregation and community to put forward charities for consideration. In order to help with the selection some guidelines have been agreed. The intent is so that there is a better understanding between our giving at St Michael's and the building up of the Kingdom of God.

- Number of charities:** In order to maximise the impact of giving, we will focus on *two* charities (rather than spreading between four as previously).
- Period of support:** The first of these charities will be supported for *one year*, the other for *two years*, as charities really appreciate longer periods of support. It is possible for the one-year charity to be supported for a second year, but after two years of continuous support there must be one year's break before it can be nominated again.
- Area of impact:** One charity should have an effect within the *borough* of Richmond and Twickenham, and the other *international* in scope, so that we might give both locally and globally.
- Size of charities:** A preference for *smaller rather than larger charities* (albeit this is somewhat relative), in order to support those charities which do not have high profile or ability to publicise but are doing good work.
- Relationship:** It should be possible to have a *genuine relationship* with a charity (such as congregational visits, regular information updates etc.).
- Principles:** Ideally, all charities should somehow be able to relate to the *Seven Corporal Acts of Mercy*¹, or the *Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy*² or the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission³, in order

¹ **The Seven Corporal Acts of Mercy** (See Matthew 25f) To be interpreted broadly:
To feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit/free the imprisoned, bury/pray the dead.

² **The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy:** *Admonish the sinner, instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, comfort the sorrowful, bear wrongs patiently, forgive all injuries, pray for the living and the dead.*

³ **The Five Marks of Mission**
To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
To respond to human need by loving service.

to root our giving in spirituality and scripture. Charities do not have to be explicitly Christian in nature, but should be in accordance and relatable to Christian ideals and principles in some way.

How do I nominate a charity?

If you would like to nominate a charity, you should write to the Parish Office with the name of the charity and a short description of what it does and how it might relate to the above guidelines.

Nominations should come from those on the electoral roll, who live in the parish, are regular worshippers, or have some other direct connection. There is no problem with nominating a charity that someone has a personal connection with, but this must be made clear if it is the case.

Who will look at the nominations?

The nominations will be carefully looked at by a small informal 'Charities Group', currently made up of a member of the congregation (Rosemary Hurry 2018), the Rev'd Judith Roberts and one member of the PCC (Phil Keightley 2018) who will shortlist the nominations, using the above guidelines. If any uncertainty arises, the Vicar and Churchwardens can make a final decision on the suitability of a particular charity.

How will the charities be chosen?

The charities will be voted on by those present at the APCM by a simple majority, with the information about the charities being shared with the congregation in advance of the day.