

1 Cor 16:1 - 4

16 Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. 2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. 3 Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. 4 If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.

Mark 12:1-9

Jesus then began to speak to them in parables: "A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed.

"He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

"But the tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

"What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.

Man said to God - how long is Million years to you?

God said - ooh a million years, that's like .. a minute!

Man said to God - how much is a billion pounds to you?

God said - oh a billion pounds - like a fiver.

Man - said - can I have a billion pounds please

God - sure - just wait a minute.

Lets talk about money.

Jesus talked about money more than He did Heaven, or Hell , or both combined.

11 of 39 parables talk about money.

1 of every 7 verses in the Gospel of Luke talk about money.

Because - how you deal with money, shows how you deal with life.

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Luke 12.34

Are you stingy or generous, worried you'll never have enough, or trusting in God.

Do you think money is the answer to life's problems, or God is?

Jesus is doing all he can for us to get in heaven, does not want us to be tripped up or stopped because of a little thing like money - because - he knows "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven." (Luke 18.25)

Jesus and the bible clearly think that money is an excellent resource and very useful tool, and way back in Genesis - when Abraham meets Melchizedek - Gen 14:20 - he gives him a 10th of all he has. And all through Leviticus laws and even up to the the temple tax in Jesus day there is a deep rooted idea that as believers, as people of faith - we give some of our money to God. Muslims do it, Jews do it, Christians do it. It is a sign of faith - of trust - God will provide.

Pau's letter to the Corinthians - they are taking a collection, on the first day of the week, setting aside a sum dependent on income - and taking it up to Jerusalem for the church.

Traditionally, when people give money "to god" - they actually give it to the church, the temple, the priest, the mosque whatever. Because you can give money to lots of good things - charities, christian charities, hospices etc - its all good. But they might also get money from other people. Jo Bloggs who lives next door - they might support the Air Ambulance. They are not going to support St James. For one thing they think we get government money, which we don't, and secondly - why would they? I'm not going to give to Fordingbridge Bowls club, unless I play bowls. Only us - here in the church - will support the church. Its up to you and me.

So lets talk about Money and St James

It cost roughly - £110,000 to run St James last year - 2022

That's £9116 a month

Or £2,115 a week

You might like to know where it goes...

£6000 - church upkeep and services - 5.5%

£5,000 - magazine - 4.5%

£22,000 Holly and Zoe Salary - 20%

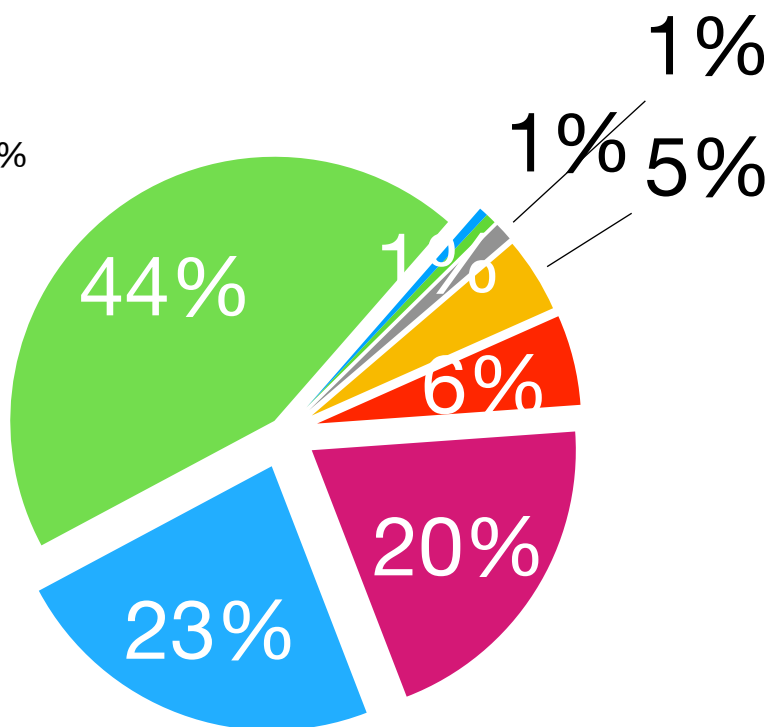
£1200 church flowers - 1%

£700 churchyard - .5%

£600 Forest edge- .5%

£25,000 recreate - 22%

£48,000 Parish Share - 43%



For that Parish Share you get:

1/2 a vicar - £11,000 a year salary, + NIC, + Pension

+ House and maintenance, Water rates, council tax

You're not paying for bishops or Cathedral

You are paying for running the Diocese, archdeacons, legal support, safeguarding, property dept, ordinands and curates and continual ministerial training.

Some amount of supporting poorer parishes.

Some to the national church

For the same amount

Cranborne - only get 1/8th of a vicar

Western Downland - gets 1/4 of a vicar

So I think we don't do badly.

So how much do you think you should be giving a week?

I want to be fair - the £25,000 for recreate - that's covered. They raise their own.

The magazine, Forest Edge - they are both net earners.

So lets say the total we need to really find is £85,000

Which is £1,600 a week or £7,000 a month

So how much do you think people give?

I asked Nigel, our previous treasurer, a few years ago could he put people in bands of how much they paid.

Bear in mind there are 125 on the electoral roll, so 125 - into £7000 - each person should be giving £56 a month.

In fact -

£200	2 people
£101 to £200	1 (that turns out to be me - I give £110 a month)
£51 to £100	7 people
£26 to £50	33 people
£11 to £25	26 people
£1 to £10	19 people
£0	37 people

Where there is a couple they are included as 2 paying the 1/2 amount they pay.  
37 people pay nothing to the church at all.

And if all those people were paying the maximum in their band, that would only raise £3,790 a month. So where is the extra £3000 a month going to come from?

If those 37 people could cough up £10 a month - £2.5 a week - it would be covered.

I don't know how much money you have.

I don't know how much you give.

I don't know how much you value having a church or a vicar?

Whether you willing to pay for it?

In Jesus parable the vineyard owner (God) - came to collect his rent - what was due to him. People didn't want to pay, they killed the servants and killed the son so that they might have the inheritance. It didn't work out that way. God always gets what's owed to him. How much have you received at this church? How much has God given you?

And what I'd really like to say, is that the Chapel have 2 full time employees - rather than 2 1/2 time here - and are able to put on lots of things and have a whole new building, because their congregation really take giving to God seriously.

Wow, what we could do if we had more money! This is my first thoughts wish list, but you probably have your own (of course if we had money in reality we'd have to discuss it and decide at the PCC).

Employ an assistant for Holly

Employ a community worker - help Forest Edge, Recreate

Secure Children and Family worker funding (it finishes in 2024)

Extending / the Hall, put in storage etc

Put on solar panels - £500 a panel - £20 - £30,000

Repair the organ - £25,000

Revamp heating in church - £30,000

How do you respond to God's generosity and all he has given you?