

St Mary's Church Wimbledon Charitable Giving Policy

This document covers policy and procedures relating to St Mary's Wimbledon's annual charitable giving activities. This document will be reviewed every three years. Our aim is to establish longer term relationships with our chosen charity so our donations can be used to real effect and promote awareness of the charities and how St Mary's supports them to the whole congregation.

Donations

Each year St Mary's Wimbledon gives 5% of its unrestricted income to the chosen charitable causes which St Mary's wishes to support as part of its Christian mission. The total annual income also includes a donation of £4,500 from the proceeds for the parking during Wimbledon tennis fortnight. The total amount available each year depends on the level of unrestricted income but based on previous years is likely to be around £26,500.

The 'unrestricted income' does not include the proceeds from the collections at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services or the collection from the Christingle Service, please see separate sections in this document.

In addition we also hold back 10% of the 5% of unrestricted income to support good causes that may have hit the news during the course of the year. This we propose to open up to congregation members to put forward charities which they wish to nominate. See related section in this document.

We welcome members of the congregation to support their own charities and look at how the church can support them in other non-monetary ways such as a hub for children toy collections, shoebox homeless collections. We also welcome other fund-raising events connected to the Church such as Sunday School cake sales. Any support requests must be pre-approved by the Charitable Giving Officer and the Church Wardens and in the case of fund raising events, proceeds should be put through the PCC accounts.

We also have retirement collections for good causes throughout the year, for example, The Grenfell Tower Fire in 2017.

Policy for deciding on charities to support

For all donations, the policy for deciding on all our 'chosen' charities is to support Christian mission agencies with strong links to the Church of England, working both internationally and throughout the UK. In addition we also support local charities with strong links to the parish and/or the church.

At the outset of our partnership with the charities, research will be undertaken to ensure that there has been no adverse activity alleged or proven against any of the chosen charities. Should any allegations or adverse news items occur during the three year timescale between reviews, we will take the relevant action.

Charities for 2018-2021

Unrestricted income

St Mary's Wimbledon gives 5% of its unrestricted income to the chosen charitable causes. We propose to support seven charities (three international/national, three local and one through the 10% contingency reserve) through the unrestricted income donation.

The proposed charities for 2018 are as follows: *[Note these charities have been suggested because of their close links to the parish/church and their alignments with supporting the Christian mission and, in the case of international/national charities, strong links to the Church of England].*

International/National

Church Urban Fund – we have provided support to this Fund over a number of years and it has close links to the Church. This fund supports over 2000 churches and community projects working in the most depressed areas of England, who are bringing hope to their neighbours in tangible, practical and life changing ways: jobs clubs, free debt advice, a free homeless shelter or somewhere to talk and be listened to.

Christian Aid - St Mary's traditionally supports Christian Aid every year, in addition to the fundraising in the congregation around Christian Aid week. Christian Aid promotes poverty eradication with a particular Christian ethos.

USPG - United Society Partners in the Gospel – is an Anglican mission agency supporting churches around the world in their mission to bring fullness of life to the communities they serve. They work to improve health, tackle poverty, put children in school, challenge discrimination, nurture leaders, give a voice to women, and much more. We suggest donating to a particular project agreed by the Committee and – initial suggestion is to support its efforts in Malawi where it aims to support education, health, income generation, care for the environment and gender rights. Congregation members have volunteered in Malawi before, although not for the USPG.

Local

Wimbledon Guild - The guild aims to help local people lead a better life by tackling poverty, supporting ageing and encouraging mental well-being. St Mary's has supported the Guild over a number of years and has strong links to the organisation.

Bishop Gilpin School – Bishop Gilpin has very strong links to the Church and its congregation. It has its own charitable fund raising through The Bishop Gilpin School Fund.

SCAMPS - based in Kingston, supports young children who have moderate to severe complex special needs living in Surrey. It has been set up by a group of parents who themselves have young children with special needs. It aims to offer support to families of children with complex and special needs, as

well as raising awareness and promoting positive attitudes towards disability. This charity has strong links to members of the congregation and has locally run fund raising activities.

Donation split: we would donate 60% to be divided equally between the International/National Charities and 30% to be distributed equally between the local charities.

Donation date to charities: End July/August – when tennis monies have been included in the overall income figure.

10% 'Contingency reserve'

Our policy is to keep back 10% of the unrestricted income to support good causes that hit the news during the course of the year. In order to involve the congregation in the charitable giving of the church the following process is proposed:

- A notice goes out in the beginning of September to the congregation (both verbally and in the news sheet) to all services to ask for nominations for charities to be considered. Guidance will be given in asking the suggestions to be for causes that have hit the news during the course of the year, both nationally and internationally.
- A shortlist (max 8) is prepared by the Charitable Giving Sub-Committee comprising the Charitable Giving Officer, Church Wardens and Rector which is presented to the Committee at the October Committee meeting.
- A vote is made at the October Committee meeting to determine which charity is chosen.
- A notice is made at the following Services and in the newssheet.
- A focus on the chosen charity is included in the December issue of Grapevine.
- Payment is made to the chosen Charity in November.

Christmas Services Collections

The collections from these services would be divided equally between two charities. One international Charity with strong links to both St Mary's, its parish and the Church of England and a local charity with close links to our church. Charities will be reviewed every three years. These should be different charities to those covered under the unrestricted income donation.

2018 Proposed Charities:

- **Embrace the Middle East** - Embrace the Middle East aims to improve the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the Middle East by partnering with local Christians who provide health, education and community development programmes. Embrace the Middle East has been supported by St Mary's over a number of years and in 2017 was the recipient of the Christmas Collection.
- **Faith in Action** - Faith in Action Merton Homelessness Project grew from collaboration between local faith groups. Based within the parish, it provides an Action Homeless Drop-in

Centre for all rough sleepers, street users and the precariously housed, as well as those who are socially excluded, vulnerable and isolated or who have mental health or addiction issues.

Donations will be made after proceeds have been counted and banked at end December/beginning of January.

Christingle Collection

The proceeds of the Christingle Service will be donated to The Children's Society. The Children's Society is a national charity which works with children throughout Britain who feel scared, unloved and unable to cope. The Children's Society helps these young people, step by step, for as long as it takes. St Mary's has supported this charity through the Christingle donation over a number of years. This will be reviewed every three years.

Donations will be made after proceeds have been counted and banked following the Christingle Service in February.

Communication of Charitable Giving

We aim to establish longer term relationships with the charitable organisations the church supports and will seek to build awareness within the congregation of the work of the charities and the support we provide. This can include mentions in our Prayers of Intercession, invitations to the charities to provide talks at the Sunday services, Grapevine articles and distribution of literature in church.