

Serving & Giving In Bedhampton Parish

Our response to the call from Jesus to follow him is summed up in our parish purpose:

**Serving the community of
Bedhampton by sharing
God's love and friendship**



**God's mission is enacted by
the church family. We thank God
for all who are part of his mission
in Bedhampton. Find out more inside
from Max (The Rector) of our approach
to serving and giving in Bedhampton Parish.**

An act of worship

Jesus is the most generous person who ever lived. He took on human flesh, and gave his life on the cross so that we might live in him. In response to Jesus' generosity, we are called to be generous. We offer our time and our money as worship to God.



St Paul encourages us, “in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, this is your true and proper worship” (Romans 12:1). Additionally in our scriptures we read that our service and giving should be regular (1 Corinthians 16:2) and Jesus says that financial giving should be between us and God and arise from private thought and prayer (Matthew 6:1–5).

Service as worship

Here in Bedhampton there are many ways to serve in God’s mission. Sunday services, midweek groups, local schools, to name a few. Behind the scenes there is the church council, administration, building maintenance and many more opportunities. Using the gifts you have been given in service will help you grow and honour our God in the process. If you have an idea how you might serve you can contact me through the parish office. If you have no idea but have the desire to worship in service contact me anyway and I will help you work through where God might be calling you.

Giving as worship

Finances can be a sensitive subject, yet Jesus did not pull his punches in this area of our lives. At one point he even turns to the wealthy and tells them that the small offering from the widow is a greater act of worship than theirs, because it demands more of her (Mark 12:41-44). In a culture dominated by materialism and individualism, there is something radical about giving when Christians make material sacrifices in order to benefit others. Guidance for how we give is found throughout the Bible, but chapters 8 and 9 from 2 Corinthians in the New Testament are particularly helpful. We find our giving is to be:



You may find the answers to some common questions on the back page helpful and are also welcome to ask questions of me directly. For now I invite you you to join me in worship as you review or begin your service and giving.

- **Motivated by grace**
(8:1–9) Christian giving is a response to the gospel of grace.
- **In proportion to our means**
(8:12–15) We give according to what God has given us.
- **Willing and cheerful**
(9:1–7) Because God loves a cheerful giver who gives gratefully.
- **A source of thanksgiving**
(9:12–14) As we, and others, give, thanksgiving returns to God.

Handwritten signature of Max Cross.

Reverend Max Cross.

Common Questions

How much should I serve?

We serve in accordance with our ability and available time which fluctuates during our life. I encourage everyone to serve in at least one area of ministry in our parish.

How much should I give?

Many of us follow the historic practice of giving 10% of our income. However we are told to give in accordance with our ability and that will be different for everyone.

I can't give what I would like, what should I do?

In giving what we can and reviewing regularly we honour God as we move towards our ultimate giving goal.

What is the best way to give?

The best way to give is through the Parish Giving Scheme. You can go to www.bedhampton.church/give to find out more or leaflets are available from the parish office. There is also an opportunity to give each Sunday in the plate or at the donation station.

Does all giving go to central Church of England?

The Church of England has a wise policy of the more wealthy parishes giving enough to support poorer parishes. As it happens Bedhampton Parish falls in the middle and we give and receive benefits in roughly equal measure.

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