



CHARITABLE GIVING POLICY

Regular Giving

Buckshaw Village Church strives to foster an environment of cheerfulness in giving. Giving is an attitude and a lifestyle choice that we encourage all worshippers to adopt, and it is our aim to give up to 10% of our unrestricted income. Everything we have comes from God. Since we encourage church members to take up Planned Christian Giving in a systematic and planned way, it is right that as a corporate body, Buckshaw Village Church should do the same.

Our church is a community and draws strength from acting as a community. Like any community, we need to think about our role on the world and not just be inward-looking. By doing so, we are strengthened by giving ourselves purpose and relevance.

Recognising that administration costs reduce the value of every donation, we limit our support to two charities each year, one of which will be a local charity. The choice of our charities will be determined according to the following principles:

- At least 50% be given to Christian charities (on the basis that such charities are particularly dependent on the support of Christians);
- We will support a mixture of overseas, national and local organisations (to maintain balanced giving);
- We will work towards developing links with the charities we support (to become more deeply and meaningfully involved with their work);
- Special appeals, whether in the context of a church service or more broadly, are not included as part of the church's annual tithe (while administered via the church, the donations are restricted and cannot legitimately be considered church funds).

We promote awareness of the charities and how we support them to the whole congregation, and our congregation are asked to suggest charities for consideration of support when they are reviewed each year.

Policy for deciding on charities to support

For all donations, the policy for deciding our 'chosen' charities is to support Christian charities with strong links to the Church of England, working both internationally and throughout the UK. In addition, we will also support a local charity each year that has 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 period of our support, we will take the relevant action.



Supporting our Mission Partners

As we grow, we send out and support individuals and families in missionary contexts. However, it will not be possible to financially support all. It is therefore the BVC policy to have both “Mission Partners” and “Prayerfully Supported Mission Partners”.

Priority is given to applicants who meet the following criteria:

- The enterprise should have an overtly evangelical, Christian emphasis
- those who have a meaningful connection with Buckshaw Village Church and who can demonstrate that they have contributed to fellowship, i.e. through attending a growth group, being involved in children’s/youth work, worship team etc.
- There needs to be evidence that your project is well organised, thought through and accredited e.g. going under the umbrella of a recognised organisation such as Tearfund or SAMS
- We are open to supporting applications for enterprises in the UK as well as abroad
- Please note this fund does not support general travel trips with a minor or occasional focus on Christian work.

- **Mission Partners**

Typically those individuals who are or have been regular worshippers at BVC. We share close links with them and regularly prayerfully support and encourage them in any way we can. We keep the church updated on their journey and support them when/if they return. Equally we endeavour to keep them updated on the life of the church. If needed, we will financially support them in ways that are sustainable.

- **Prayerfully Supported Mission Partners**

Those who are very dear to us at BVC and who we commit to sharing updates with the church and praying for them regularly during church services and prayer meetings. We are unable to offer financial help to these partners but offer support in other ways.

Any grants that are made are given on the understanding that should the enterprise not take place the money will be returned.

Those who wish to become Mission Partners should apply via the application form on the Buckshaw Village Church website. All applications will be considered by your Mission Panel.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding this policy, please contact BV Church, 1 Bridgewater Drive, Buckshaw Village, PR7 7EU or email buckshawchurch@gmail.com.

This policy was adopted by the PCC on xxx