



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

From the very beginning of His public ministry, Our Lord gathered communities around Him. He said that whenever even two or three met in His name He would be with them. The same is true today when we come together as the Parish community here.

The Church has always been this living community that preaches the Gospel and celebrates the sacraments, and sustains itself to achieve these ends. Each Parish therefore needs to be adequately funded and cannot depend on others, such as the Diocese, for financial support. Each Parish must balance its books so as to ensure its long-term future and facilitate continuing the mission given by Jesus Christ to the first apostles.

In the light of the many pastoral activities taking place here in the parish as well as the challenges presented to us by the upkeep of our church building, may I invite you please in the weeks ahead to reflect on your regular offertory contribution.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity!

Father John

If you have any questions, please ask a volunteer after Mass or contact:

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To stay informed or donate to our parish online, please visit
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/pondersend/>

WEEK 1

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD PONDERS END



OUR CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

“...serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”- 1 Peter 4:10

WRCDT - Charity Number 233699



“...all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.”

-I Chronicles 29: 14

All we have comes from God, so we are His Stewards

Whether it is the gift of our faith, our friends and family, our skills, possessions, or the gift of life itself!

So how do I respond? Do I give thanks to God and honour Him through how I use these gifts? Regularly reflecting on my blessings and renewing my commitment to the Faith through my giving is therefore an important part of my personal spiritual growth and discipleship.

Whenever we give, we grow each time we:

- ✓ Joyfully recall that all we have comes from God;
- ✓ Declare our trust in His provision and care;
- ✓ Take one step forward in our personal faith journey;
- ✓ Share in the joy of giving and seeing the amazing fruits it brings.

Time, Treasure, Talents

Each one of us is blessed with a unique portion of time, treasure and talents that God wants us to use and share with others for His glory. Our parish would not function without the generosity of our parishioners volunteering their time and talents and sharing their financial blessings.

“...give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”

- 2 Corinthians 9:7



What does my parish mean to me?

Alongside volunteering, our parish relies on offertory collections to maintain and grow our mission. We do not receive funding from the government, the Vatican or diocese.

As Stewards of this parish, we are each responsible for the upkeep of our parish, with a duty to pass it on to future generations in even better condition than when we received it.

What you decide to give is personal to you. Traditionally, communities of the faithful tithed, giving 10% of their income. Some like to break this down into '5 and 5':

- 5 hours of volunteering a month
- 5% of their income.

Whatever you decide, the amount should suit your circumstances and be meaningful to you. The table below can help you to work out percentages if you wish.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME		WEEKLY GIVING GUIDE		
Hourly Wage	Annual Salary	2%	3%	5%
£7.83	£14,250	£5.50	£8.22	£13.70
£10	£18,000	£7	£10	£17
£20	£36,000	£14	£21	£35
£25	£45,000	£17	£26	£44
£30	£55,000	£21	£32	£53
£38	£70,000	£27	£40	£67

The late Cardinal Basil Hume suggested we consider offering our first hour's pay to God each week.

