

# DO YOU SEE ST JUDE'S AS YOUR CHURCH?



ST JUDES  
PLYMOUTH

We hope so.

Therefore, please do detach and complete the new membership form attached, even if you are already on the Electoral Roll. In 2019, across the whole of the Church of England, all existing membership lists cease and must be renewed. We therefore need everyone to fill in a new form. It really helps us to know who our committed members are.

And as someone who thinks of this Church as theirs and wants to go onto our membership roll, can we also ask that you consider giving regularly to the everyday needs of your Church? (Overleaf is an example of how much it costs to keep this Church operating – and the sums might surprise you)

No funds are given to us by the Church of England, though our clergy are paid and housed by them from sums we pay into the Diocese. All the costs overleaf need to be raised by us, the Church. We recognise some can give more, others maybe not, but if we all contribute what we can, we can enable much more than just managing to cover our costs.

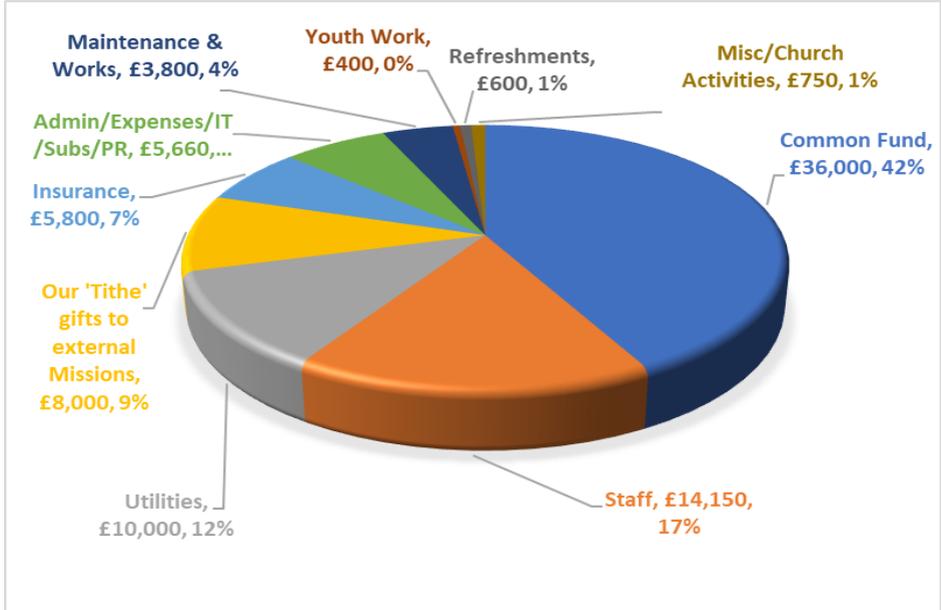
By thinking about our giving before the rest of our spending, we also show God that we are putting him first, as we release back to him from what he generously gives us.

Planned giving enables the Church to look ahead, to see if we can run old or new ministries. There is so much for us to do in our community for God's Kingdom, not just running and maintaining buildings. Your gifts as a committed member of this Church really helps us to do that.

So, as you complete your new attached membership form, can we encourage you to also think and pray about your giving to this church that you want to be a member of? If you don't yet use the Parish Giving Scheme (a simple tax efficient means of regular giving via Direct Debit handled on our behalf by the Diocese), please do just tick the box on the form and we will provide the information you need.

If you already give regularly, can you reflect on how much you contribute to see if you might want to amend it? For most of us, our extra giving to the Next Era Fund, that was in addition to our normal donations, completes at some point this coming year. Perhaps, as we have been used to this level of generosity, can we also take some of that into account for our new regular planned giving?

Thank you so much for wanting to be a part of this journey with us all.



### 2019 Budget £85,160

*(Based on current levels of anticipated giving if there is no change)*

Some important points to consider regarding this Budget:

- The large payment above (£36,000 or 42%) is the sum we are budgeting to give the Diocese this year called Common Fund. It relates to the provision of paid ministers across the Diocese. (Clergy are not normally employed by the parishes, rather by the Church of England)
- The Common Fund request varies depending on attendance. If someone comes regularly, maybe just monthly, we are still required to count them and make a payment to the Diocese for them - about £8 per person per week – including Sunday Evenings and the Midweek
- Our Common Fund payment budgeted for 2019 above is not the amount we are being asked for, which is £42,000. The circumstances created by the Diocese while we were part way through our 5 year promises of donations to our building project affected our ability to increase our general giving last year. Last year's deficit was £11,000, but we anticipate returning to full payment in 2020 as our Next Era donations end this year. Other than during 2018/19, St Jude's has always paid its Common Fund requests in full.
- The Mission Tithe above is what we give away to other mission charities, recognising God's intention that we all should tithe in some way.
- This budget is based on historic giving levels. As we have gone through our financial challenges these last few years, the budget had to be drastically shrunk to balance. You will see that we really just cover the basics of our buildings, lighting, insurances, minimal staffing etc. We cannot, as an example, currently allocate much at all for Youth & Children's Work or local mission. We should. We would dearly love to. If we can increase our donations, we can.
- Our hope is that as we all read above and overleaf, that we might all consider, if we can, increasing our normal giving to fulfil that vision.

# Church Membership Application Form (Electoral Roll)

In the Church of England, church membership is officially known as being on the "Electoral Roll". This is because a church member can stand for election to the body of people who oversee the church called the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and vote at our annual meetings. Membership is open to anyone 16 years of age or older and baptised with some additional minor variations (fully explained overleaf). All of this is required as part of national Church of England policies - so please accept our apologies for its complicated nature! If you are not yet baptised, please do speak with the Vicar about what it means and whether or not you would like to investigate it.

For historic national Church legal reasons, Membership is immediately available for someone who is baptised and lives within the parish boundaries, but for those who live elsewhere, only once they have been attending regularly for 6 months. The full definitions of three slightly different entitlements are overleaf. In your application below and overleaf you must affirm which of these three categories apply to you. (A map of the Parish is in the Church if you are unsure of its boundaries)

Therefore, if you would like to apply to be a member of this Church, please just complete, sign and date this form and then return it. If required, please do just ask for help.

There is also a tick box overleaf if you want further information on giving regularly as a member.

**Your Full Name**

.....

 \*

**Your Full Address**

.....

 \*

.....

**Post Code**

.....

 \*

**Tel. No (Not compulsory - but helpful)**

.....

 \*

**E-Mail (Not compulsory – but helpful)**

.....

 \*

\*Please put a cross in the box alongside any entry that you would **not like** to be published within the Parish. All data is held in compliance with current legislation. Please ask for details. **(Please continue the form overleaf)**

I am 16 years of age or older (**or become 16 on.....**) and baptised.  
I also confirm that I fall into one of the following categories:  
(please mark one only)

**Category A (see below)**

**Category B (see below)**

**Category C (see below)**

I declare the answers above and overleaf are true and I apply for inclusion on the Church Electoral Roll of this parish.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Please mark here for further information on regular giving**

The three definitions of the categories that are mentioned above are:

A. I am a member of the Church of England (or of a Church in communion with the Church of England) and am resident in the parish.

B. I am a member of the Church of England (or of a Church in communion with the Church of England) and, not being resident in the parish, I have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

C. I am a member in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and also declare myself to be a member of the Church of England and I have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

**Notes**

1. The only churches at present in communion with the Church of England are other Anglican Churches and certain foreign churches.
2. Membership of the electoral roll is also open to members in good standing of a Church not in communion with the Church of England which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity where those members are also prepared to declare themselves to be members of the Church Of England.
3. Every six years a new roll is prepared and those on the previous roll are informed so that they can reapply. If this application is for that reason and you are not resident in the parish but were on the roll as a habitual worshipper and have been prevented by sickness or absence or other essential reason from worshipping for the past six months, please mention why on the form against your category. Then you will be able to come onto the new roll without a 6 month qualifying period.
4. If you have any problems with the form please approach the clergy or lay people responsible for the parish, who will be pleased to help you.
5. In this form parish means ecclesiastical parish.
6. Those who become 16 during the next 12 months may complete the form and become eligible to be entered on the Roll on their sixteenth birthday.