



# St. Mary the Virgin, Rickmansworth

The Church of England and The Methodist Church in Partnership

*Serving the whole community*

## Charitable Giving Policy

### Aim

To respond in love to the generosity of God to our church community by offering financial support to those in need – through local, national or international Charities or Aid Agencies.

### Guidelines

1. Each year St. Mary's will donate an amount equivalent to 20% of its Planned Giving, including Gift Aid, to selected Charities or Aid Agencies (Annual Giving).
2. The amount given will be divided on a broadly 60/40% split with the larger percentage being given to overseas Charities or Aid Agencies.
3. A fund of £2,000 (reviewed annually) will be held in reserve to provide an Emergency Fund. Either the United Church Council or the Standing Committee will decide when this Fund shall be used on recommendations from the Charitable Giving Committee (CGC) or individuals.
4. The proceeds of all special collections, appeals or events will be donated to the relevant Charity, determined in advance by the United Council on the recommendation of the CGC or Vicar.
5. The CGC will engage in the following activities:
  - i. research and discussions as to which Charities and Agencies should be supported each year and offer recommendations for 'Annual Giving' to the United Church Council
  - ii. invite recommendations for Charities and Agencies from the congregation
  - iii. publicise the names and details of the Charities and Agencies to which donations have been given
  - iv. generate events and engage speakers to further the knowledge of the congregation and church community, as may be appropriate
6. The following considerations shall apply for all Charities and Agencies when determining proposed giving:
  - i. To qualify for our giving, the Charities or Agencies concerned need not specifically be Christian but must be working to achieve objectives which are compatible with a Christian ethos. Where charities meet the criteria and undertake similar work, resources will be channelled to those affiliated to the Anglican or Methodist Churches.
  - ii. Are we satisfied that the Charity or Agency is efficient, properly run and in good standing?
  - iii. Will our donation make a real difference at the 'front line'?
  - iv. Do we have sufficient information (or feed-back, in the case of continuing projects) about the Charity or Agency in question and the effectiveness of funds donated?
  - v. Is the request for an ongoing donation or a 'one off'? (If the latter, use of the Emergency Fund (see above) might be more appropriate.)
7. This Policy and Guidelines will be reviewed annually.

Agreed:

Next update due: