



Community of Christ

BRITISH ISLES

Giving Opportunities - What Funds Can I Give To?

Mission Prayer - God, where will your Spirit lead today?
Help me be fully awake and ready to respond.
Grant me courage to risk something new
and become a blessing of your love and peace. Amen.

Faithful disciples respond to an increasing awareness of the abundant generosity of God by sharing according to the desires of their hearts, not by commandment or constraint. Give generously according to your true capacity. D&C 163:9

Your response to this scripture may well be to ask, “How much shall I give and to what funds should I make my financial contributions?” The main purpose of this article is to provide some information and suggestions which may help to answer the second part of this question. In addition, it provides some information about the various ways in which you can give.

The three sections of this article are:

1. Description of Church Funds
2. Ways to Give
3. Wills and Bequests

1. Description of Church Funds

Congregation Funds

Congregation ministries support the costs of operating the local congregation including its building maintenance, activities and outreach programmes.

In addition to its operating fund, congregations may maintain a **Building fund** or **other Special funds**.

Mission Centre Funds

Mission Centre Ministries supports missionary outreach, leadership development, adult and youth ministries, volunteer ministry expenses, and programme implementation of mission.

Project Support fund Provides grants for ministry projects initiated by individuals, congregations, or the mission centre to further the Church's mission in the British Isles.

Youth Ministries fund Subsidises youth camping programmes, activities for children and youth, and participation in international events sponsored by the Church.

Mission Centre Events Subsidies fund Offers financial support for attendance at British Isles Mission Centre events, funded by offerings, budget contributions, and donations throughout the year.

Mission Centre Endowment fund Receives donations and bequests to support the mission and objectives of the Mission Centre.

Children's Holiday Camps fund Provides safe, nurturing holidays for families to spend quality time together.

Peacemobile UK provides education for children in conflict resolution and peace, with four travelling interactive peace museums focusing on peace for me, peace for us, peace for everyone and peace for the planet.

The Dunfield Charity the Dunfield Charity owns and operates **Dunfield House**, a spiritual home for members and friends of Community of Christ and a venue for youth camps and retreats. Contributions may be made to **general operations**, or to the **Dunfield Endowment Fund** supporting the Charity's mission, or to the **Dunfield Stewardship Fund** which supports the ongoing maintenance and repairs, ensuring Dunfield House remains safe, welcoming, and sustainable.

World Church Funds

World ministries support the operating budget of Community of Christ worldwide, including salaries and expenses for ministers in the British Isles and globally, and funding many different nations.

Abolish Poverty, End Suffering funds are used to serve the poor and hungry, and to stop conditions that diminish the worth of persons. Some of these contributions go to the World Church **Oblation fund** which provides temporary assistance with food, shelter, clothing, transport and other necessary living expenses for church members and others to whom the church is providing ministry. Contributions to Abolish Poverty, End Suffering also support the **World Hunger fund** which provides support for specific hunger focused projects. An Abolish Poverty, End Suffering offering is received at every communion service.

Outreach International is the aid charity of choice for contributions by many members and friends of Community of Christ. Outreach International works in villages and communities around the world to break the cycle of poverty through sustainable solutions to life-threatening challenges like hunger and access to health care, education and clean water.

2. Ways to Give

Offering Envelopes Use these to make regular gifts to any of the funds. Envelopes can be obtained from your congregation's financial officer.

Lump Sum Gifts - Send a cheque made payable to *Community of Christ* to the Mission Centre Financial Officer (MCFO), including a note specifying the fund(s) your gift is for. Alternatively, make a direct bank transfer to the Mission Centre account, include your name in the reference, and email the MCFO with the details.

Monthly Standing Order - Set up a standing order to your congregation's bank account or the Mission Centre account. Notify your congregation's financial officer or the MCFO with the payment amount and start date.

Website - Use the 'give' option on the church website, <https://cofchrist.org.uk/donate-now/>

Gift Aid - If you pay tax and have completed a Gift Aid form, the Church can reclaim tax on donations you make to any of the above funds, increasing the value of your gift at no extra cost to you. If you haven't yet completed a Gift Aid form, please request one from your congregation's financial officer or from the Mission Centre Financial Officer (MCFO) and return the completed form to them.

For details of the **Mission Centre Bank Account** contact the MCFO.

3. Wills and Bequests

Many of us want to give more to the Church but find it difficult in today's financial environment. We deeply value the support you are already providing.

One way to increase your support without affecting your current finances is through a bequest in your Will. A bequest is a gift made after death, and it requires having a Will in place. A Will is a written document that outlines how your money and assets should be distributed. Without a Will, the law decides who inherits, which may not reflect your wishes.

While it's important to provide for your next of kin first, a Will also allows you to leave gifts to charities such as the Church. Research shows many people do not have a Will, even though it is an essential way to ensure assets are inherited according to your wishes.

If you have dependants, a Will can also specify who should care for them in the event of your death. Making a Will is straightforward and far less daunting than many think.

By making a Will, you take control of who receives what. While we hope you may consider leaving a gift to the Church, this guidance is not intended to suggest anyone is giving insufficiently. Rather, it is a reminder that an up-to-date Will can secure your wishes and may save your next of kin time, stress, and expense in the future.

If you have any questions about topics covered in this article or require more information, please contact us.

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