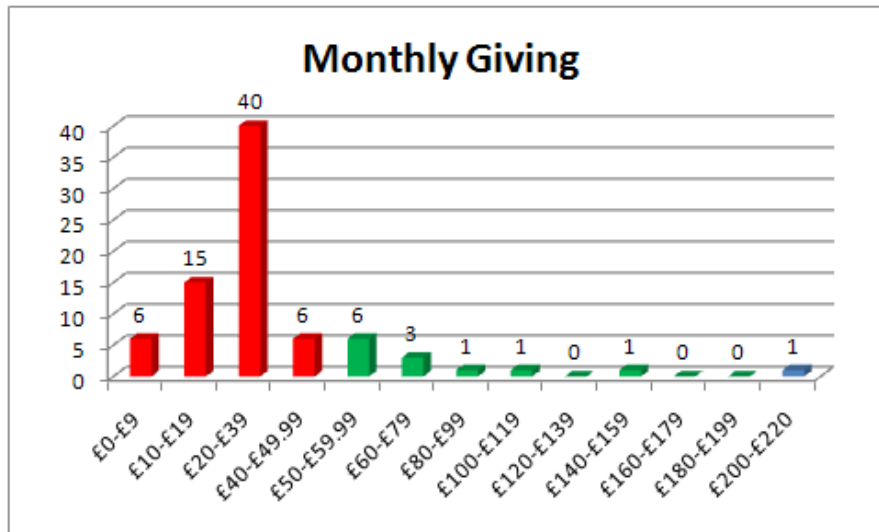


Remember this?

Pattern of giving to Holy Cross Church, 2009



Yes, that's right!

It was part of our Parish Stewardship Pack in 2010.

What the graph attempted to show was how the giving of money in our congregation falls unevenly on a relatively tiny minority.

Well in 2010, you all responded well and the picture improved.

BUT, things have slipped. New people have not joined the Giving Scheme and the levels of giving of current members has dropped. Some have even dropped out altogether.

The problem is made worse by the fact that the Archdeacon is asking us to increase our share of the Diocesan Fund by 3-6%.

We are being squeezed at both ends and it hurts!

Yes, we know that you are also being squeezed, but what it comes down to is that if we value all the things which Holy Cross Church and our Christian Faith offer us, everyone needs to make an effort to hang-on-in there, financially and add new people to the scheme as they come along.



To this end, we will have a Stewardship Renewal focus on Sunday 11th September, so please listen and respond with the same generosity which we asked for in 2010.

On the next page is some of the material which we sent to you in the Stewardship Packs.

Responding to Generous Love

There are several different ways in which people give money away!

Sometimes we feel inspired to support a project in which we are involved, and a good example of that would be the recent successful Access Project at Holy Cross Church which has opened up our buildings to all-comers.

Then there are times when we feel we might have sufficient surplus income to give to a good cause close to our heart, such as the many very worthy charitable causes in the world today.

Christian Stewardship is rather different.

Christian Stewardship is a response to the generous love of God which we see in the life and death of Jesus Christ. The response is not about one-off donations or giving from our surplus income, but of regularly dedicating part of our income to support our Church which is actively promoting and declaring that generous love in all that we do together.

Christian Stewardship is a sacrificial response to God's love, a response which shows our personal thanksgiving for all that God has done, and a practical method of ensuring that his church has the financial resources to continue its work today, in many different aspects.

That work includes many things, including the role of the stipendiary clergy, which involves many important community activities. These range from baptism, to weddings, to funerals, to work with children, and work with schools and support for the various groups in our community. The role of the clergy is not limited to the church but affects all the community.

It is vital that our young people grow up feeling comfortable with the Church and learning about our faith naturally and happily. They may find some of this happening at a Church school, but that is not enough. The Church community also needs to promote Christian values and Christian faith among our young people. That is our job as a Church.



Official figures show that the average monthly giving in London during 2009 was £72 per family. As you can see from the graphic, only about 4 of our congregation can match that figure. On the other hand, we know that people on fixed incomes may not be able to respond as much as others.

If we could achieve an average commitment nearer to £50 a month per family, or more if possible, this would provide enough to pay our Common Fund plus make a significant contribution to other work which we could then plan, ranging from work on our buildings to children and youth work.

Please consider whether your financial contribution is a fair expression of the value which Holy Cross Church and our Christian faith has for you.

Your gift brings good news and provides a platform for expressing our faith as a living faith and a sign of hope in our world. We all benefit from the generous love of God and the generous love of our parish life together.

Please respond with your own generosity.

Neil Richardson