

## When the Diocese asks me how much I earn...

### The Chairman of the Fairer Shares Committee responds to last month's letter

**The letter in May Bridge raises some valuable points about the Fairer Shares process.**

Dealing with the three aspects in turn.

Fairer Shares assessment is based on the centre point of an income band. Some will be at the lower end, like your correspondent, others at the higher, averaging across the parish.

Those on variable incomes (business owners, professionals who can anticipate annual bonuses etc) should choose an income band broadly reflecting their likely longer-term total gross income (from all sources).

Actual income is another matter, which can, at least for some, vary widely in the shorter term, as your correspondent well illustrates. Members are encouraged to do as much as they can by regular giving (envelopes or standing order), topping up with additional contributions (the most painless way) immediately the bonus, legacy, windfall, stock exchange gain, inheritance, business profits etc. are received. The additional contributions can either be in the form of lump-sum giving, or by temporarily increasing regular giving, then scaling back again.

It is natural to feel you are letting yourself, your parish, and the Church down by committing to regular giving, only to scale back, or cease altogether, as circumstances change. NO. 'Far better for the Church to have the extra income, even for a short period, than not at all'.

Only in this way can those on variable incomes, like your correspondent, accurately match their giving to Church needs over the longer term. 'Church needs' are 4% of Gross Income (equivalent to the standard 5% of take-home pay) of which broadly half goes to fund the clergy (Parish Share). The balance being for parish own use. £13.7m has to be raised to fund the clergy in 2005 (6.8% up on 2004 - the reason, incidentally, average Parish Share increased by 6%). This is broadly equivalent to 2% of gross income from every member of the diocese - the calculation behind 'Parish Share' (identical for all members and all parishes in the diocese). Plus whatever is needed for parish own use.

If some members (or some parishes) contribute less, others (often less favourably placed) have to contribute more to make good the shortfall - the necessary consequence of the 'closed' system. All members of the diocese thus need to be encouraged to contribute fully in relation to their total longer-term gross income, from all sources, however variable short-term. Hopefully the above suggestions will help. Thank you for a valuable letter.

**Brian Warnes  
Chairman, Fairer  
Shares Committee**

# Your Letters...

## Divine Chocolate

**I refer to Bishop Tom's remarks about Divine chocolate during his Presidential address at the Synod (reported in April Bridge) held in St John's Church, Waterloo.**

I am a volunteer at the One World Shop at that church, which stocks this chocolate amongst many other Fairtrade products. I have also met two of the cocoa farmers brought over from Ghana by the Day Chocolate Company to Lambeth and other London boroughs during Fairtrade Fortnight.

I should therefore like to clear up some misunderstandings. Whilst Christian Aid is very supportive and, indeed, its supporters successfully lobbied

Sainsbury's to stock Divine chocolate when it was first introduced, it is the Day Chocolate Company that manufactures and markets the Divine range.

Until I raised the question, I also thought tariff barriers were the reason the chocolate is not made in Ghana. This is not, however, an issue because of the preferential treatment for former colonies. Logistics are the problem. To make chocolate in Ghana for overseas markets would entail importing milk and, in such a hot country, costly refrigeration.

And for those who wonder why production is in Germany, the answer is the lack of manufacturing capacity in the UK.

**Mary Corral,  
London, W4**

## Is prayer good for your health?

**...asked your contributors in May Bridge.**

Let's take at random five well-know hymns to see:

Praise my Soul - words; Lyte (1793-1849), music; Goss (1800-80)

Soldiers of Christ arise - words; Wesley (1707-88), music; Redhead (1820-1901)

Hail these festal days - words; Fortunatur (530-609), music; Shaw (1879-1958)

Jerusalem the Golden - words; Denard de Cluny (12<sup>th</sup> cent), music Ewing (1830-95)

Let all the world in every corner sing - words Herbert (1593-1632), music Shaw (1879-1958)



## Something to say?

**Drop us a line at THE BRIDGE. You'll find address and e-mail details on page 2.**

**Publication of any letter does not necessarily reflect the views of the Diocese. Letters may also be edited.**

Could therefore, Dr Rutherford and Gareth Smith expatiate on their correlation as to longevity (or not) and prayer of these examples.

**Harry Coles,  
Blackheath SE3**

## 'Resource and refresh'

RIDLEY HALL theological college has launched a series of three-day programmes for Readers called "Resource & Refresh". The first in April attracted 25 Readers from around Britain. Two more, including spiritual direction, are being organised for September. Planning for next year is well advanced, focusing on preaching, funerals, working with children and faith in the workplace. Further information from Trevor Thorn on 01223 741069 or 07814 671927



## Ancient and Modern...

We don't pretend to spot all the changing scenes of life, but our team of investment managers keep a constant look out for new situations to complement the long-term aspirations of church trusts. Meanwhile, church trusts can continue to look at the attractions of our range of investment, property and deposit funds.

To get the full picture call us today.

For a church's short-term and long-term aspirations



**CCLA INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD  
The CBF Church of England Funds**

(Established in 1958)

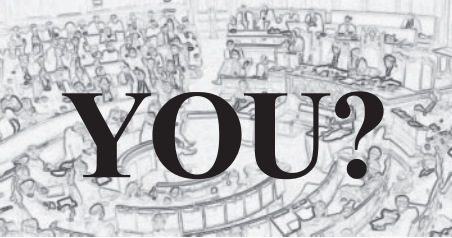
020 7489 6010

www.ccla.co.uk

CCLA Investment Management Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA). The Trustee of The CBF Church of England Funds (the Funds) is The Central Board of Finance of the Church of England, a registered charity. Under the provisions of the FSMA the Trustee is not considered to be operating the Funds by way of business and therefore is not required to be regulated by the FSA. Participation in the Funds is restricted to any charitable trust with objects connected with the work of the Church of England.

Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The Funds' share value can fall as well as rise. An investor may not get back the amount originally invested. The shares are intended only for long-term investment and are not suitable for money liable to be spent in the near future.

## A new General Synod will be elected this summer



# YOU?

Thought of standing to put yourself in the picture?



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Find out more at  
[www.cofe.anglican.org](http://www.cofe.anglican.org)

What? Me... an Oughtist? What's that?

**AtF**

Affirming the Faith website

[www.affirmingthefaith.com](http://www.affirmingthefaith.com)

### CONNECT TWO

Are you a single, widowed or unattached Christian seeking friends, companion or future partner? Connect Two can help

Tel: 01460 72477