



St James, St John's and St Martin's Policy on Gifts to Clergy

Introduction

As a church, we recognise the spiritual power and hold that money and material possessions can have, acknowledging that it was Jesus that elevated the status of money to a spiritual power when He said that you can't serve both God and money. In an attempt to do what is right both in the sight of God and men and to ensure openness and transparency in all financial matters, the following policy guidelines are to be applied where gifts are given to paid members of the pastoral team.

Where this issue is covered within a formal contract of employment, then it should be read alongside that contract. Where the two are in conflict, the terms of the contract carry precedence over this guideline.

This policy extends to material gifts given 'in kind' and where a value is given it corresponds to a cash gift or the cash value of a material gift.

Policy Guidelines

- i. Any gift offered to a value of more than £100 must not be accepted without the prior agreement of the churchwarden[s] of the church that person attends.
- ii. Where the value of gifts received from any one person in the same year exceeds £100, no additional gifts can be accepted without the prior agreement of the churchwarden[s] of the church that person attends.
- iii. Where prior agreement can't be obtained, gifts falling into categories (i) and (ii) can't be accepted.
- iv. All gifts, of a value above £50 must be recorded in the Gifts register kept on Sharepoint which the churchwardens of all 3 churches will be able to inspect.
- v. This policy will be communicated to the church community for awareness.

With thanks to Stewardship for the use of their template policy.

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