



The Ephesian Fund: Giving as a church/PCC

What is the Ephesian Fund?

The Ephesian Fund is an independent charity, originally set up by the Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC), that enables both PCCs and individuals to give to the Church of England in good conscience, knowing that their gifts will only be used to support parishes and ministries within the Church of England that hold to biblical and apostolic doctrine as we have received it.

We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), regulated by the Charity Commission for England and Wales (registered charity number: 1206489). Our charitable objects are set out in 'The Ephesian Fund Constitution', which can be found on our website (ephesianfund.org.uk), along with information about our trustees and patrons (supporters). Our primary banking services are provided by Lloyds Banking Group.

The Ephesian Fund derives its name from Paul's encouragement to the Christians in Ephesus to root and build the church in and on the apostolic foundations they had received (Ephesians 2: 20-22).

Why is the Ephesian Fund needed?

Evangelicals have always given generously to support the life and witness of local churches. However, the decision of the House of Bishops to walk away from a historic biblical understanding of sex and marriage is causing many evangelicals, who feel sexual ethics is not an area on which we can agree to disagree, to review their giving to the Church of England.

In view of this, The Ephesian Fund offers two services:

1. For churches/PCCs that no longer feel able to give 'blanket support' to their diocesan expenditure plans, we offer a way to pay your voluntary parish share contributions to your diocese that will require them to allocate these gifts back to your church for its own ministry costs. We require any surplus giving above your own costs to be credited to another church whose minister or PCC endorses the CEEC Basis of Faith. This service is provided free of charge.
2. For individuals, we offer a means for them to give to their church (or other causes) and it will only be used to pay parish share if The Ephesian Fund is assured by the diocese that it will only be used for orthodox purposes. The individual giving platform is administered by Stewardship, who charges a small commission to cover the cost of handling donations. The Ephesian Fund does not take any extra charge. For more info on individual giving see the 'Ephesian Fund – for individual givers' info sheet on the Ephesian Fund website.

Does the Ephesian Fund work with the dioceses on our behalf?

The Ephesian Fund is working with dioceses to provide a means for people to continue giving to the Church of England at a time when many find themselves struggling to pay via traditional means in good conscience. We encourage churches to consider clergy stipends, housing costs, and safeguarding when calculating what they consider their ministry costs to be, as we recognise there are 'bills to be paid'. We generally enjoy good working relationships with many dioceses across the Church of England. Should you have any concerns about your own context, do contact the team using the details below.

How does it work?

Paying Parish Share via The Ephesian Fund

1. A relevant office holder (such as the incumbent or treasurer) fills out the form on our website, and deposits their first gift into The Ephesian Fund bank account via BACS (or cheque).

Bank Details

Bank: Lloyds Bank
Account Name: The Ephesian Fund
Sort Code: 30 99 50
Account Number: 39813463

2. The Ephesian Fund staff team will liaise with your diocese on your behalf, informing them you wish to pay via The Ephesian Fund, and agreeing on how the money will be allocated.
3. We will inform you when we have been able to pass your first gift on. Further monthly/quarterly gifts will be passed on according to your instructions. You will receive an automated email each time we receive and start processing a payment from you, and these are usually passed to your diocese within one working week.
4. That's it. You can look out for your payments on any reporting you receive from your diocese. We will follow up any audit trails with the diocese and will contact you in the autumn term about your giving for the following year.

There are two types of parish...

- *Net receivers* are those whose ministry costs are 'topped up' by the mutual support of other churches. In this situation, any money net receivers give via The Ephesian Fund will be credited back to their parish. This is a positive/worthwhile exercise because it enables them to add their voice of concern to others regarding the Prayers of Love and Faith.
- *Net contributors* are those whose giving generates a surplus over and above their own costs. After their own costs are credited back to them, their surplus is used to support net receiver parishes that sign up to the CEEC Basis of Faith and additional declarations. An audit trail is established to show and assure PCCs how their gifts are being used.

Further questions?

See our frequently asked questions at www.ephesianfund.org.uk/faqs/

Contact us via our website and receive a call back or email us at ef@ceec.info. The team is happy to help.