

# What does the Bible say about Giving?

## Everything belongs to God:

We are stewards of the wealth and resources God has given us.

“The heavens are Yours, the earth also, You made the world and everything in it.” Psalm 89 v 11

See also *1 Chronicles 29v11 and Psalm 24v1*

## Giving is a thank offering to God:

God is good: He is generous towards us. Financial giving is a biblical expression of thankfulness.

*Psalm 107v1 and 116v17; Leviticus 7v12*

## Giving 10% of income was normal in the Old Testament (OT):

The tithe (10%) was a generous proportion of income. In the OT God asked his people to give back this regular proportion of the first fruits of their produce and wealth.

*Leviticus 27v30 and Malachi 3v8-10*

## Generosity and cheerfulness are attitudes to giving encouraged in the New Testament (NT):

Jesus frequently encouraged and challenged people to give with generosity. Saint Paul emphasized this by saying “God loves a cheerful giver”. Our attitude in giving is more important than the amount we give.

*Luke 6v38 and 2 Corinthians 9v7*

## Regular planned giving was part of Christian discipleship in the early church:

Paul encouraged Christians to develop a pattern of regular and committed giving building on the principles from the Old Testament.

*1 Corinthians 16v2*

St John’s encourages all those who regularly worship with us to consider how they can contribute to the ministry of the church. There are different ways to give: prayer, time, talents, sharing belongings and finance.

The following information will help to inform you of the financial expenses of the church. Thank you for taking time to read this leaflet and consider your financial contribution to the ministry of the church.

## How much does it cost to finance St John’s?

Per week our expenses in 2018 were £3,400.

The average weekly attendance in 2019 was approximately 137 adults and 15 children.

## Where does our income go?

	%
Parish Share to wider church, clergy salaries	42
Property maintenance	13
Children, Youth & Groups	10
Administration & Office	10
Mission partners	9
Other Church costs, outreach, community	16

St John’s currently gives away £16,000 per year to our long term mission partners abroad and in the UK, who work in mission, healthcare, education and caring for the poor. This is our expression of planned, generous and cheerful giving.

This money supports our six mission partners: Tester family (CMS, Mission in Peru), Purulia Hospital (India, The Leprosy Mission), Rukungiri School (Uganda), CRiBS (Christian Resources in Bexley Schools), International Justice Mission (Anti slavery) and Open Doors (serving persecuted Christians worldwide).

## What is the Parish Share?

This is an amount of money that goes to the Diocese of Rochester (Church of England). It pays for the bishops, mission and ministry costs of the diocese and the support we receive from it, clergy stipends, housing and training, and those Parishes unable to pay.

## Should I give to charities or to the church?

Many of the Biblical references to giving refer to gifts given to God and used for the work of the temple or the church. It is only God’s people who can finance the work of the church; we are not able to access other sources of funding. We take good care of your financial gifts and pass on a significant proportion to the work of the mission agencies and charities agreed by the PCC (Parochial Church Council). However the choice is yours! The Old Testament advocates tithes (that portion which ‘belongs’ to God by right) and free-will offerings, that extra that you choose to give.

## How much should I give?

Take time to consider the Biblical guidelines and references included in this leaflet. Pray and ask God for guidance and a cheerful heart. Seek to be generous. Give in what way you can!

Many people discover more about God’s generosity, love and provision as they give. If you are new to giving or have financial difficulties, or if you are not solely responsible for the money you have, begin small and plan to increase / review your giving over time, giving in another way if you cannot give much in money terms.

For how to give, see the back page

## What about Easyfundraising?



**EASYFUNDRAISING** is a way of giving through purchasing goods and services via a gateway website when you shop online. Start your online shopping first at the Easyfundraising site, then shop as normal. Over 3,700 shops and sites participate (eg John Lewis, eBay, Apple) and the company donates as you shop. From the Easyfundraising home page search for St Johns Church, Welling and start shopping. You can download a donation reminder which will prompt you on each participating website. For Amazon shoppers, the gateway is AmazonSmile, and you will need to search for **The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish Of St John’s, Welling.**

