

## Principles of Giving

**Giving is good.** Giving should be an important part of our lives and that means giving both time and money. We receive freely from God and we give freely. It shouldn't be a chore. In fact being generous makes us feel good about ourselves. If our giving is a burden we are getting something wrong. Giving on a regular and planned basis should be something integral to our lives. Giving is good for us and the community.

**Giving is confidential.** The only people who have access to how much we give are the treasurers and they do not share this with anyone. As a church we need our planned giving to be £130,848. The average amount of giving is distorted by the fact that our 31 most generous givers account for 61% income.

**Giving should be proportional.** As Christians we feel it is right to give a proportion of what we have to the Church and a proportion to other charities. The ancient concept of tithing is helpful, but rather than a tenth to the Church maybe 5% to Church and 5% to other charities. However, it is up to each of us to decide what the right proportion is, and that maybe different at different times. The concept of proportionality is better than just thinking of a set sum of money. It is important to "give what is right not what is left". Our giving should be one of our priorities, along with mortgages, food, holidays etc. and we should set aside a proper proportion of our money for this. We should be modelling good practice for our children, grandchildren and our communities.

**Giving should be reviewed regularly.** If giving is an important part of our daily lives we should review it on a regular basis, at least annually. The concept of a review means that you may wish to increase or decrease your giving. Of those who give to our team scheme we know that a number are very good at reviewing on a regular basis. Others however have not changed the amount they give ever since they first set up a standing order. We hope everyone will review on a regular basis.

**Giving is all of our responsibility.** One of the recent political slogans was "we are all in this together" which like many political statements was received with scepticism. Whilst we might be cynical about the world, there should be an optimism that as a Church we can be a different kind of community which really does co-operate. Church, ek-lesia, is the people of God. We are God's people and we share in this community equally. At present a small number are bearing a disproportionate burden of the Church's financial responsibility. If all of our members gave proportionately our finances would be incredibly healthy.

**Giving pays for ministry.** By far the greatest cost we face as a church is the cost of ministry, which includes the stipends and housing, training and pension costs. It should be noted that in the Tring Team Parish we receive a disproportionately large amount of ministry for the amount that we pay. We have readers who are not paid, we have self supporting priests, and many people freely give their time. This makes us very fortunate. Also the PCC have worked hard so that a new chaplain / curate will join our Team and there will be no additional cost for this!

*He said 'Freely, freely  
you have received,  
freely, freely give.  
Go in my name, and  
because you believe  
others will know that  
I live*

**The Church should give too.** As a church we should be an outward looking organisation. We should be supporting other charities. We do, but we could do so much more if we knew our planned expenditure was covered by our planned giving.

