



# CHRISTCHURCH

Knowing God and making Him known

## GUIDELINES for FINANCIAL GIVING



Loving and giving are in God's heart.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

JOHN 3:16

He desires to reach people in our lost, hurting world. We are committed to partnering with Jesus in this great Kingdom mission. For God's work to advance the necessary finances must be available. In this leaflet we look at how to honour God with our finances and resources.

## PRINCIPLES of GIVING

- God provides for us in every way (John 3:16; Phil 4:19)
- We are stewards of all God has given us, talents, time and wealth. (Like 16 v.2)
- It is better to give than receive (Acts 20:35)
- Give with a cheerful heart (2 Cor 9:7)
- Give generously (2 Cor 9:6)
- Give responsibly and regularly (1 Cor 16:2)
- Give in faith (Mark 12:41-44)
- Give in secret (Matthew 6:1-4)

ChristChurch believes that where giving is concerned GRACE, rather than GUILT, should be the overriding principle that guides our decisions.

“Giving is found in God’s heart, in the heart of the Gospel and in the heart of the true believer... Giving is part of worship and brings much spiritual blessing and release”  
Roger Forster (Ichthus Christian Fellowship)

We believe it is right for Christians to give a proportion (assessed regularly by the individual) of their income to support Christian and charitable work both here in their local church and also further afield.

In deciding what and how to give the following saying of John Wesley is as relevant today as it when it was first stated:

Gain all you can           *(by honest wisdom and unwearied diligence),*  
Save all you can         *(but not for laying up treasure)*  
Give all you can         *(to the household of faith and all mankind).*

So we gain and save in order to give – to God & others.

### What about Tithes and Offerings?

In the Old Testament God’s people were required to give a tithe (10%) to God’s work and also to give offerings on top of this. In the New Testament tithing is not emphasised because the underlying assumption is that everything we have comes from and belongs to God – we are living in the Jubilee that Jesus brings.

The right question to ask in response to this is how much should I keep back for myself!!! (It is interesting to note that during his early years of ministry John Wesley gave less than 10%, whilst during his final years he lived on 2% of his vastly increased income and gave away 98%).

Wesley prioritised his stewardship of God's gifts as follows.

*Provide for:*

1. *Yourself – to cover your basic needs*
2. *Family & any employees*  
*then, if there is surplus left,*
3. *“The Household of Faith” – this included the organised work of the Lord in churches*
4. *All people in need.*

*In doing so, you have given all you have to God.*

In applying these principles, some Christians find it helpful to be mindful of the Old Testament practices, and seek to manage their personal and family responsibilities such that they commit to give at least 10% of their income to Christian and charitable causes.

[“When I do tithes I find I have more to give again in a thank offering to the Lord”](#)  
[Roger Forster \(Ichthus Christian Fellowship\)](#)

## **PRACTICALITIES of GIVING to God's work at ChristChurch**

- Monthly Offerings – There is an opportunity to give at our monthly offerings which take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month – ask about the envelope scheme.
- Standing Orders – You can give directly to ChristChurch by Standing Order through your bank account by filling in a simple form
- Gift Aid – Completing a Gift Aid form increases the value of your gift if you pay UK income tax.

Whatever form of regular giving you decide upon, we recommend and encourage you to review it regularly, and that you consider some form of spontaneous giving in addition to planned giving. This encourages generosity in our hearts and frequently exercises us in the important area of stewarding the resources God has entrusted to us.

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

These guidelines refer to our giving in response to what God has given to us, be it earned income, inherited wealth etc.

There are aspects of contemporary life where particular considerations may apply. Students may need to accept loans to finance their studies and daily living. Wesley's principles apply, but as a church we believe students should not have to increase their indebtedness in order to 'give'. However, students may decide that giving can be a part of the responsible use of their overall income.

We are also aware that we live in an economy where debt in the form of credit or loans is readily encouraged. We believe many are being tested today by the temptation to spend beyond their means, and we owe it to one another to offer wise counsel when these situations occur. Preparing a personal budget may be a first step to deciding what level of debt we can afford to take on.

Many people live well into retirement. How we provide for retirement is important, and needs to be taken into account when working out personal and family needs during our working lives.

Finally, there is the issue of stewarding the resources we leave to others. The passing on of any property may be one of the largest stewardship and giving decisions of our lifetime. Wesley's principles still apply, and here we would encourage every adult to make a will and regularly review its provisions. It's part of preparing to meet our maker!

### Now what should I do?

Prayerfully consider how God is leading / guiding you to support His work both here in ChristChurch (for regular attendees) and right across the globe.

For those considering these matters: envelope scheme, gift aid, regular giving, budgeting, and making provision to bequest gifts to the Church and other charities - guidance is available. Please contact the CCW treasurer who can point you towards useful sources of information.

Thank you for reading this leaflet.

*The ChristChurch Wrexham Leadership Team*

Treasurer : Richard Fogg : 01978-354473.

Church email – [admin@christchurchwrexham.org.uk](mailto:admin@christchurchwrexham.org.uk)

Church website - [www.christchurchwrexham.org.uk](http://www.christchurchwrexham.org.uk)