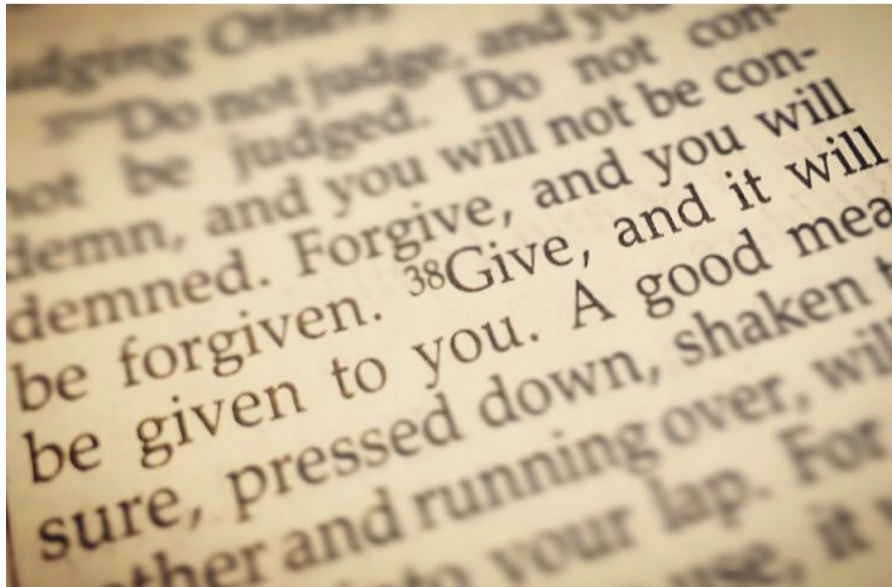


Giving for Life

The why and how of Christian Giving



The Principles

- **Put God's money to one side first - give a percentage of your income**

Key verse: 1 Corinthians 16:2 - *Every Sunday each of you put aside some money, in proportion to what you have earned...*

- **There are no 'rules' - just a guideline**

Key verse: 2 Corinthians 9:7 - *You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly*

The guideline in the Bible is the 'tithe' – 10% of your income given back to God. Here we ask each other to consider offering 5 per cent of income directly to this church. Jesus never mentioned a percentage, because it's the heart that counts. Jesus asked the rich young man in Mark 10 to give it all up! One woman gave everything she had - her 2 small coins were 'more than anyone else' said Jesus (Mark 12:43). It's what's in your heart that matters.

- **Giving is good for us**

Key verse: Malachi 3:10 - *Bring the full amount of your tithes to the temple so there will be plenty of food there. Put me to the test and see that I will open the window of heaven and pour out on you in abundance all kinds of good things.*

We learn through experience that 'the more we give, the more we receive'.

- **We give for growth, to share in God's joy**

Key verse: 2 Corinthians 9:6 - *the person who sows few seeds will have a small crop; the one who sows many seeds will have a large crop.*

At St Alphege, Seasalter we want to:

- *Resource Children's and Youth Ministry*
- *Reorder the Old Church*
- *Support the local and world Church*
- *Fulfil the vision God has given us for growth and outreach*



The Practicalities

There are two main ways you can give regularly to the church – by setting up a standing order with your bank or by joining the envelope scheme.

Standing Order

The very simple way to give – no more running around on a Sunday morning looking for cash. The Stewardship Secretary will supply a mandate form or give you the necessary details if you prefer to use telephone or Internet banking.

Envelope Scheme

Everyone in the scheme is given a set of dated, numbered envelopes. Your contribution goes into the envelope, and is put in the collection plate when it is passed around.

This allows you privacy, and helps you to plan your giving. It does not commit you to giving a fixed amount every week – some people choose to give monthly, or however suits the way they receive their income.

Your donation information is kept confidential – only the Stewardship Secretary knows how much has been given by each individual. That information can be used to reclaim the Gift Aid, where appropriate (see below).

Gift Aid

If you are a taxpayer, you can boost your giving by completing a Gift Aid declaration – we can then reclaim 25% of your contribution at no further cost to yourself. The only criterion is that the tax you pay covers the amount of tax we reclaim. For example, if you donate £1000 during a tax year, we can reclaim £250 as long as you pay at least £250 in tax for that year. All we need on the declaration is your name, address and the date – you don't have to give any other information.

It is also possible to make a one-off gift direct to the Stewardship Secretary (details below).

For more details talk to Ceri Charilaou, the Stewardship Secretary (Tel: 274650 email: cericharilaou@hotmail.co.uk)



Legacies

Over the centuries many generous church members have left gifts (legacies) to their church in their will. These gifts make a huge difference in helping parishes in their mission and in continuing to play their part in the unfolding Christian story of our country.

While churches should never rely on legacies to pay their day-to-day bills, legacies, large and small, can pay for projects and work which are over and above the routine financial life of the church.

For instance, we have received legacies which not only paid for the new sound and AV desk in the Christian Centre but which have also given us the resources to carry out the work which has been done to repair the Old Church.

It makes sense to review your will regularly (and make one if you haven't already done so, thereby avoiding unnecessary complications for family and friends) because family situations change, and your wishes may change.

The Church of England provides a free pack to help in making a will and deciding about a legacy – this can be obtained by either calling 08445 870875 or emailing info@churchlegacy.org.uk. More information can be found on www.churchlegacy.org.uk.

Or you can talk in confidence to any of the clergy or the churchwardens.

