

Christ Church
CAMBRIDGE



Giving at Christ Church



'Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name.
... Everything comes from you, and we have
given you only what comes from your hand.'
1 Chronicles 29:13, 14 (NIV)

Serving God together

Responding to our generous God

We are aware that we serve a generous God who has given us extravagant blessing in Christ. As we respond to him, both by the giving of time and money, our prayer is that he might grow our church in a way that would honour him and bring him glory.

Amazingly, it is through the church that the manifold wisdom of God is made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places (Ephesians 3:10). As we do mission, and as we grow together into maturity, we build the kind of church community that brings him glory. A church where men, women, young people and children know the fullness of life in Christ because they have a growing sense of the dimensions of his love for us and increasingly reflect that love in their daily lives.

Four foundations of our church life



Belonging – we respond to God’s call by committing ourselves to Christ and by membership and service within the church.



Community – we strengthen our church community by meeting in small groups around God’s word and loving one another in a shared life of faith.



Maturity – we deepen the spiritual maturity of the church through Bible teaching and training, and speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).



Mission – we glorify God through evangelism and social action, both locally and further afield.

Three ministry areas

Building on these four foundations, our Vision Sunday in 2017 set three particular emphases in church life for the coming years. These were:

- Children’s and families’ ministry
- A ministry of biblical counselling
- Church growth initiatives

While we will continue to support a wide range of activities and ministries at Christ Church, these three areas will have a particular priority as we seek to work out how to use the resources we have available.

We are excited to see the ways in which God will continue to use our church to serve him and bring him glory. But we know that it will continue to require generous and sacrificial giving for us to serve him as we should.

It is a great joy to be part of a church that gives so generously and so cheerfully. Thank you for sharing in the work of the Kingdom of Christ in that way.

With love in Christ,

Steve Midgley

Senior Minister



What the Bible says

2 Corinthians 8 & 9

'Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!'

This verse, 2 Corinthians 9:15, sums up the main motivation for Christian giving: thankfulness. We want to express our thanks to God for our salvation in Jesus and acknowledge that everything we have comes from him.

In a culture dominated by materialism and individualism, there is something distinctively radical about Christian giving. When Christians make material sacrifices in order to benefit others they are living contrary to the spirit of our age. But why do they do this? King David observes in 1 Chronicles 29 that everything belongs to God. Therefore all our resources must be at God's disposal and used in his service; giving financially is just one expression of this. The Old Testament people of God gave a tithe of ten per cent (Matthew 23:23). Many Christians find this a helpful benchmark and give ten per cent of their total income to support Christian ministry. But the New Testament has more to teach us.

According to 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, Christian giving should be:

- **Carefully supervised** (8:16–24) To guard against any suggestion of financial mismanagement.
- **Willing and cheerful** (9:1–7) Because God loves a cheerful giver who gives gratefully in response to God.
- **A source of spiritual blessing** (9:8–11) God promises that grace will abound to us as we give ourselves and our resources generously in his service.
- **A source of thanksgiving to God** (9:12–14) Christian giving is a huge source of encouragement. As we, and others, give, thanksgiving returns to God and he is glorified by such a clear demonstration of his grace at work in people's lives.

Also... regular and private

In addition, our giving should be regular (1 Corinthians 16:2) and private. Jesus tells us that Christian giving should be between us and God (Matthew 6:1–5). It mustn't be motivated by a desire to impress others, but should arise from private thought and prayer (and discussion within a marriage).

- **Motivated by grace** (8:1–9) Christian giving is a response to the gospel of grace. Through the gospel we receive extraordinary blessings from God and sacrificial giving both reflects this gospel and responds to it.
- **In proportion to our means** (8:12–15) We give according to the riches God has given us. Even though her gift was small, Jesus commended the widow because she gave out of her poverty (Luke 21:1–4).

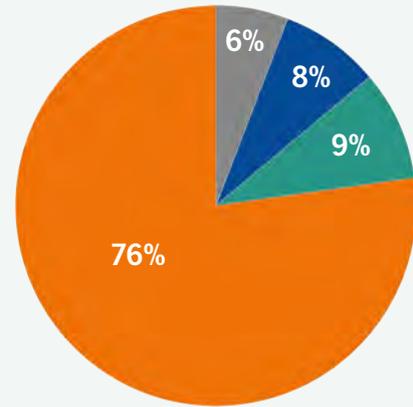
Giving at Christ Church

Why give regularly?

- **The principle** God gives evangelists, pastors and teachers 'to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ' (Ephesians 4:11–12). The reason we pay a staff team to do ministry is to help all of us do ministry. That's why most of our money goes to pay for our church staff (see chart).
- **The practice** Since salaries need to be paid each month, we'd encourage you to give by monthly standing order where you can.
- **The future** Because ministries multiply in the way the Bible describes, financial support for ministry is a key factor in future growth.

Not yet giving?

We want everyone at Christ Church to share in God's grace of giving, so we would urge you to begin to give; even if the initial amount you are able to give is small, it is still spiritually important to begin giving (see Mark 12:43). The enclosed giving form will enable you to give regularly – please complete it and return it to the Treasurer via the church office. Further copies are available from the church office.



Christ Church expenditure

76% Staff, parish share & accommodation costs

9% Property & running costs

8% External giving

6% Church life & events

'On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...'
1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)

Giving at Christ Church contd.

Already giving regularly?

Then why not review your giving? It makes sense to do this at least annually and adjust your giving according to changed circumstances. Perhaps this is a year when you would like to make a one-off thanksgiving gift to reflect some particular blessing from God.

Giving elsewhere?

We are glad that many at Christ Church have personal links with gospel ministry elsewhere and choose to support those ministries financially. Alongside this, however, we do hope you will consider making Christ Church a main recipient of your giving. This would seem to be the implication of Paul's teaching in 1 Timothy 5:17–18 where he says that Christians have a responsibility to support their own teachers. Christ Church directs at least ten per cent of all the money that is given to support ministry elsewhere in the UK and overseas. This reflects a commitment to the principle that churches who have more should support those that have less (2 Corinthians 8:13–15).

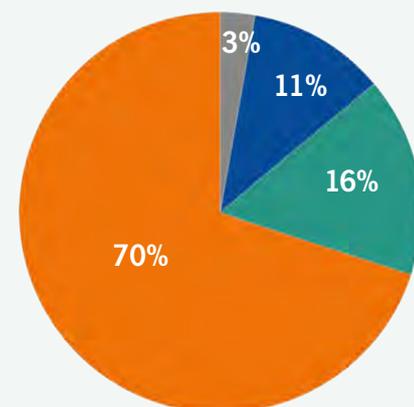
Giving tax-efficiently

If you are a UK taxpayer we strongly recommend that you cover your giving with a Gift Aid declaration. This will enable us to recover the tax you have already paid on your gift – amounting to 25 pence for every pound you give. As the pie chart shows, recovered tax represents a valuable proportion of the church's overall income.

A single Gift Aid declaration will cover all your current and future gifts, both standing order and one-off gifts, and may be cancelled at any time. You will need to ensure that the total tax reclaimed on your gifts to charities in any one year does not exceed the amount of income tax or capital gains tax you pay in the same year.

If you pay higher rate income tax you will be able to reclaim extra tax on your giving through your tax return and you can choose to donate this and any other tax refund to Christ Church if you wish.

There is a Gift Aid declaration on the enclosed giving form, for you to complete and return to the Treasurer via the church office. Further copies are available from the church office. Gift Aid declarations apply to an individual giver; if a husband and wife both want to give in this way, they must complete and sign separate forms.



More information...

Financial giving is an exciting opportunity to participate in Christian ministry and to be used by God in his work. The aim of this leaflet is to help us all think seriously and prayerfully about our giving to Christ Church.

If you have any general questions, please contact one of the churchwardens or the church's Finance Manager or Treasurer via the church office. They will be very happy to help.

If you would like specific advice on giving via a CAF Charity or Stewardship Account, Give As You Earn, or from an overseas bank account, please contact the Treasurer.

We treat all giving confidentially and only the people who need to administer your gifts will be aware of the amounts. We do not usually acknowledge individual gifts, unless you ask us to do so. If you need confirmation of how much you have given to Christ Church in any tax year, please let us know.

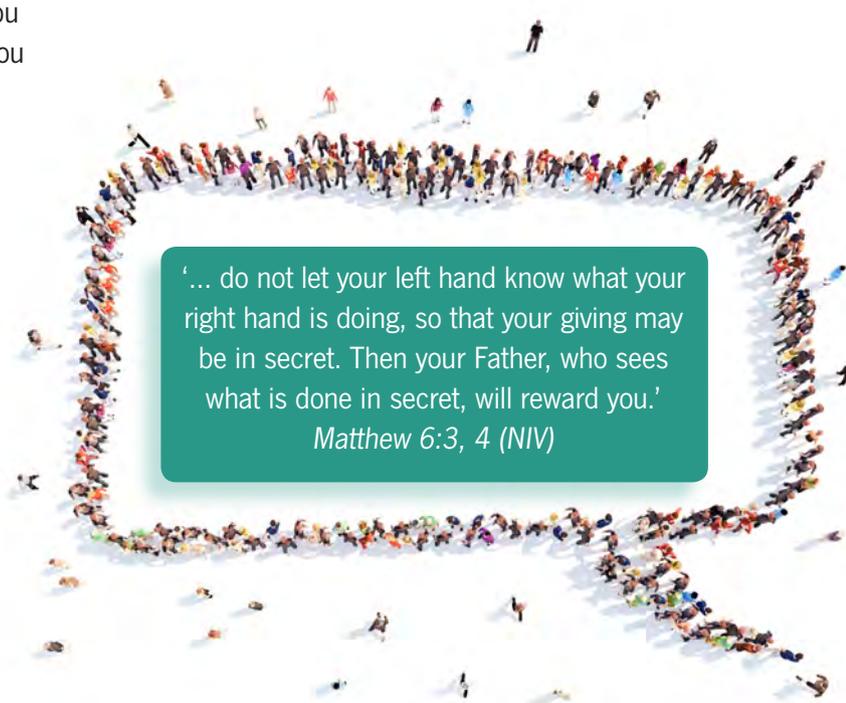
Christ Church budgeted income

70% Regular giving

16% Recovered tax

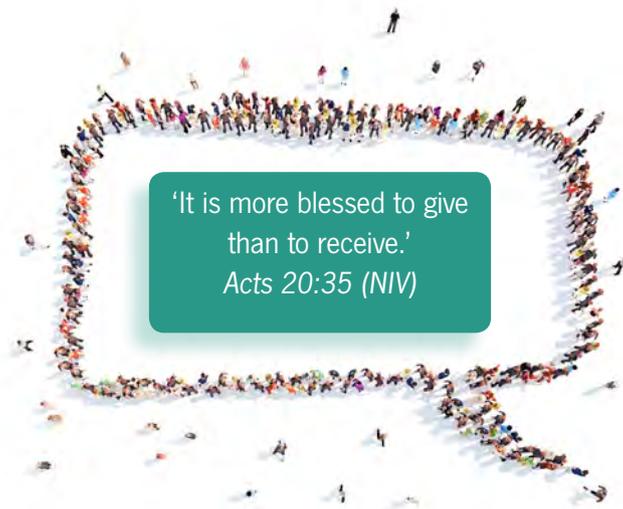
11% Other income, including group activities & events

3% Other donations or gifts



'... do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.'

Matthew 6:3, 4 (NIV)



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