

Giving in response to God

Jesus talked regularly about giving and over one third of His parables relate to this topic.

Generous giving should be:

- assessed on all our income not just spare change
- an act of worship and thanksgiving
- prayerfully considered
- planned but not prescriptive allowing flexibility
- a realistic proportion of your income
- sacrificial, in that there is a cost to our giving
- cheerfully and joyfully given

The scope of Christian giving is not just money; but includes time, talents, hospitality and possessions that God has entrusted to us.

Generous giving should become second nature to us so we are transformed to resemble the overflowing generosity of our Lord.

Many in the Church give their time freely and generously in all manner of service to the Church and the wider community.

Support in prayer is also welcomed for the Church family.

Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

1 Chron 29:14

How much should I give?

We ask you to prayerfully consider your gifts to St Lawrence following the principles outlined on the previous page.

If you want to have a guideline to help your decision the Church of England has made the following observations:

The Old Testament made reference to Abraham giving 10% and also this rate is referred to elsewhere as 'a tithe'.

It is recognised that not everybody is able to achieve this level of giving and we are not suggesting that all of your planned giving is given to St Lawrence, since we understand that the Lord may have put on your hearts a desire to support other believers or Christian work.

However, we have a shortfall between the costs attributable to running the church and the regular giving.

By way of example we need an extra £10,000 per annum to cover our existing costs, which means that if all our regular givers increase their giving by £10 per month or half of them increase their giving by £20 per month we will achieve a balanced budget.

If you only give occasionally or when attending a service, we encourage you to set up a regular giving plan (see 'How to give' section).

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver

2 Cor 9:7

Why should I give to St Lawrence Church?

Where your money is spent:

By far the largest cost to the church is the Parish Share and the provision of local Christian leaders across the diocese but also the ministry that results including:

- teaching of children and young people through assemblies
- provision of a spiritual place for the community
- children's youth work and clubs
- services of worship held throughout the week
- bereavement care and support
- pastoral care
- running a summer holiday club
- supporting missionaries overseas through donations to the world church organisation

To put it in context: to maintain St Lawrence Church, support the community and the world church, we need to raise a minimum of

£136,000 annually*

Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

Prov 1

*as at 20.01.2020