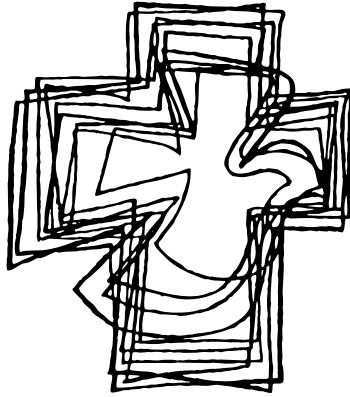


# RESPONSE AND RESPONSIBILITY



## Principles and practicalities of financial giving at Christ Church Downend

It is with thanksgiving that we look back at what God has done in and through our Church in the past few years.

It is with anticipation that we look forward and imagine the potential that could be realised if more of the resources God has given us could be released for His purposes.

It is out of a sense of gratitude and excitement that these principles and practicalities of giving are offered.

## Biblical Principles of Financial Giving

In every area of our lives we are called to discern what God requires of us. We do this by prayer, reading the bible devotionally and seeking wise counsel from trusted Christian friends.

The topic of finances is one such area. Thankfully, the bible has much to say in the whole area of how we should handle money.

So here are some basic principles that may help us think about our responsibility to use our money wisely.

### All We Have Is God's

In Genesis 1:28 it says, "God blessed them and said to them, be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it – have dominion over it". This is the starting point of our thinking. All we have is God's but what we do with it is our responsibility.

### Give To God The First

In Deuteronomy 26:10 it says, "so now I bring the first fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me".

In 1 Corinthians 16:2, St Paul urges, "on the first day of the week each one of you should set asides a sum of money in keeping with their income". It is to God we give, first of all, before anything else. He is worthy of the best, and we can live off the rest. The important thing is that we make a conscious decision to plan our giving carefully and prayerfully, recognising that we are giving to the Lord and his work, not primarily to the Church because it is short of cash!

### Give With Thankful Hearts

2 Corinthians 9:7 says, "each of you should give what you have decided in your hearts to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver".

If we do not enjoy giving, it is worth asking ourselves 'Why not?' It is one of the main ways that we can know God's blessing, for Jesus said that there is more blessing in giving than in receiving.

## Decide How Much To Give

2Corinthians 8:5 says, "they voluntarily gave according to their means and even beyond their means – they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God, to us".

Jesus himself said, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also; you can not serve both God and money." (Matt 6:21 & 24)

In the Old Testament, God's people live by the principle of tithing, that is, they gave a tenth of all they had to help meet the needs of others. It was given out of gratitude to God for all he had given to them. For Christians, the principle of the thithe can be a helpful guide for regular giving. The best way to decide is to ask God! Pray for his guidance and be confident in His daily provision.

Please speak to one of the clergy or Church Treasurer, in confidence, if you want to discuss this further. Ray Hackney (t: 0117 956 9777 or email: [treasurer@christchurchdownend.com](mailto:treasurer@christchurchdownend.com)) has full information as to how to give at Christ Church.