

## How much should I give?

Only you understand your own finances, and we make no judgement on how much you decide to give. What is important to us is that you give something regularly...whether that's 10p a week or £100.

Some people find the concept of a tithe useful. This principle means that 10% of your income is given away: 5% to the church and 5% to other charitable causes. That idea may, or may not, be helpful to you.

Read Luke 21:1-4, and then ask yourself these questions as you think about how much to give.

- Is my offering realistic? Can I sustain this all year (barring any circumstance changes)?
- Is my giving a priority? Do I give when my money comes in, or do I wait to see what's left over?
- Is my giving a sacrifice? Does it mean that if I were to get it back, I'd find myself able to do something I couldn't do before?

After thinking and praying you may want to increase the amount you give, or change the way that you give. You may decide that you can change the way, but not the amount, or you may decide to change nothing, or even decrease your giving. If you have thought and prayed about it, it doesn't matter what you decide.

## What happens now?

We are asking you all to fill in one of our Pledge Forms. On the back page, it asks you to make a pledge about your planned giving. Please fill this in, and give it back either to Sam Perlo-Freeman, or return it to the Vicarage. We're asking you to return these by the end of January 2019.

The amount you pledge is kept confidential. We won't share it with anyone, and we won't be checking up and holding you to it.

If you have not received this leaflet as part of your Stewardship Pack on Epiphany Sunday, you may need to pick up a pledge form, or any of our other forms separately.

Our giving is all in context of our Parish Vision Day on Saturday, 12th January. This is where we will be deciding what our priorities are for the money you give over the coming months and years. Please do try and attend if you are able.

If you have any questions about anything you have read or heard about stewardship, please just ask. There is no such thing as a stupid question! Please just ask Mthr Alice, Sebastian or Sam.

All of our leaflets can be found on our website at:  
[www.sjebp.com/stewardship](http://www.sjebp.com/stewardship)

ST JOHN'S  
N4

# Giving to St John's



# Epiphany 2019

## Why do we need money?

In 2018, it cost **£37,040** to run St John's.

That's just over **£100** a day.

### Where does the money go?

Our main expenditure can be split up as follows:

Common Fund to Diocese	£16,500
Building and Insurance	£7,477
Office Expenses	£2,506
Music	£5,054
Mission and Outreach	£2,105

### Where does the money come from?

We have two main sources of income:

Rental income	£17,584
Voluntary Giving	£12,822

In 2018, our overall income was **£32,823**.

The generosity of those who give voluntarily to the parish make almost everything other than our Common Fund contributions possible.

For that THANK YOU.

The figures show us two things however:

- In 2018, we spent **£4,217** more than our income.
- In 2018, our voluntary giving was **£2,982** lower than in 2017.

## Why are we thinking about money at Epiphany?

The wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. In bringing gifts, and offering them, they discovered that they in fact were offering the gifts of themselves to God. Their gifts were changed by an encounter with Christ to become offerings that built up the budding community of the church.

We give to our parish not just because the numbers don't add up, though, that is a reason. We give money to our church because in doing so, we build up the community of faith around us, and so, strengthen our faith too. And in giving to God, we allow something of ourselves to be transformed by an encounter with Christ.

As things stand, we are able to run our current activities on our current income. We hope, however, with our Parish Vision Day to find new ways of reaching out to our community and meeting more of the need we see around us. These new possibilities require more finances. The more stable our finances, the greater the potential to reach and transform more lives.

We are hoping to greatly increase our income from renting out our spaces. It is important that our voluntary giving reflects this increase. Rental income cannot be relied upon in the same way that voluntary income can. By giving via **Planned Giving**, we are able to better plan and budget for the future. We can engage reliably in social action, and we can ensure that we do not miss opportunities as they arise.

## How can I give?

There are three ways to give via Planned Giving. They are listed in the order of preference that we'd like to receive your donations!

- The **Parish Giving Scheme** is run by the Church of England. Your donation is paid by standing order to them, a separate independent charity. They then claim any Gift Aid on our behalf, before paying the new total into our bank account later that same month. The scheme allows you to tick a box to increase your donation each year in line with inflation, and it greatly reduces our administration. You can find out more in the special leaflet.
- **Standing Order** allows you to make a payment direct from your bank account to ours on the same day each month. It is easy for you to set up using the separate form, and you can change or cancel at any time. If you pay income tax, you can Gift Aid your donation too.
- The **Envelope Scheme** allows you to put the same amount of cash into your own personally numbered envelope each week. If you are away from church, you can bring several weeks when you get back. It helps you to remember to bring your donation, and it helps us to plan our income.

You can of course continue to give if you wish by just placing cash on our collection plate.

However you give, claiming the **Gift Aid** on your donation is important. If you pay income tax, please make sure we have an up-to-date Gift Aid form.