



St Peter's
Muswell Hill

**Making & Maturing Disciples
of the Lord Jesus Christ**

Guide to giving

*“remembering the words
the Lord Jesus himself said:
‘It is more blessed to give
than to receive.’”*

Acts 20:35

Confidentiality

Information about your giving to St Peter's is held securely and confidentially.

The Minister (Philip Sudell) and other members of the staff team do not have access to information about your giving.

Introduction

We believe that generosity is good for us and brings glory to God.

Being able to give financially is a privilege, and this short guide explores the joy and responsibility of Christian giving, with a particular focus on St Peter's, Muswell Hill.

This guide first sets out some of the Bible's teaching on financial giving. It then looks at why money is needed and, finally, how best we can support the work of St Peter's financially.

Thank you for taking the time to read it.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us:

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Christian giving

The Bible gives us motivations for, and characteristics of, Christian giving. Here we consider each briefly.

Motivations for Christian giving

Our attitude to giving will reflect at least four aspects of being a Christian:

1. Gratitude to God as Saviour

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9)

God loves us so much that he paid the highest possible price – the death of Jesus on the cross – so that we could enter the family of God. Our desire to give generously flows from thankfulness to God for all that He has given us.

2. Trust in God as Father

*“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”
(Romans 8:32)*

As Christians and thus members of God’s family we know that we can trust God as our heavenly father. If we can trust Him to bring us into his kingdom (through the death of Jesus) then surely we can trust Him with our money and possessions.

We don’t need to hoard our possessions or look for security in them. God wants us to discover that He can be trusted, as we give sacrificially.

3. Surrender to God as King

“No-one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money” (Matthew 6:24)

Being a Christian involves the submission of every aspect of our lives to Him – our time and energy, abilities and talents, homes and hospitality and, yes, our money!

Giving money should not be to appease our consciences or as a substitute for other avenues of Christian service but is to be part of the total surrender of our lives to God as our King.

4. Partnership with God in extending His Kingdom

“... God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.” (2 Corinthians 5:19 – 20a)

As members of God’s family, we have the most exciting opportunity in the world – to be co-workers with God in establishing His kingdom.

Since God’s kingdom is established as His voice is heard and obeyed, it is natural that we should want to be part of a fellowship where God’s truth is clearly taught, lived out and presented to others who do not yet know God. Such a ministry costs money and it is both our privilege and responsibility to give towards it.

Characteristics of Christian giving

Paul's letters to the Corinthians gives some helpful pointers on a Christian's attitude to giving. We should aim to give ...

Generously

God is no man's debtor and we will find a great blessing in giving.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” (2 Corinthians 9:6)

Cheerfully

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Eagerly

Corinth was a very gifted church, and he encourages them, *“Just as you excel in everything ... see that you excel in this grace of giving”* (2 Corinthians 8:7)

Actually

Our desire to give needs to be matched by our actually doing it. *“Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.”* (2 Corinthians 8:11).

Proportionately

“For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have” (2 Corinthians 8:12). Our giving is to be ‘according to our means’ (2 Corinthians 8:11).

Routinely

There is great benefit in giving in a regular, planned way so that generosity is part of our pattern of life. *“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.”* (2 Corinthians 16:2).

Of course, there are also occasions where we may want to make one-off gifts or where collections for specific needs are useful.

Read more

For a more thorough treatment of the subject of giving, you may find the following booklet helpful:

‘The Grace of Giving: 10 principles of Christian Giving’ by John Stott.

Copies are available from the Church Office.

Ways to give financially

Making a one-off donation or setting up a regular gift is easy to do.

Gift-Aiding your donation, if you can, significantly increases the value of your gift.

Gift Aid and tax-efficient giving

If you are a UK taxpayer, you are likely to be able to take advantage of the government's Gift Aid scheme. This allows charitable organisations such as St Peter's to reclaim basic-rate tax on donations that you make.

Under Gift Aid if you make a gift of £400, for example, we can reclaim a further £100, meaning that the total value of your donation is £500. If you are a higher-rate taxpayer, you may be able to reclaim further tax in your tax return, meaning the real cost to you of making a gift is actually less than the value of the donation you make.

Please use the Gift Aid scheme if you can, as it increases the value of your gift at no cost to you. You can use Gift Aid for single gifts and / or regular gifts.

To benefit from Gift Aid, you need to fill in a simple form certifying that you pay sufficient tax. You can use the form to cover just one donation, or several donations over time. The form is available from the Church Office or Treasurer. The Gift Aid form is also available on the St Peter's Church website. The Treasurer will be happy to help you with any questions that you have.

Regular gifts

Planned, regular giving is a great blessing to us. It helps us to plan more effectively, commit to new initiatives, and reduces our administration. It usually makes things easier for you too – no need to write a cheque or go online every time that you want to make a gift.

You may find it easiest to set up or amend a Standing Order directly with your bank using online or telephone services. If you do this, please let the Treasurer know so that we can check that the gifts arrive and can update our records.

Alternatively, you can do this by completing a Standing Order form (available from the Church Office). You can also complete a Gift Aid declaration on the same form.

One-off gifts

One-off gifts can also be made by cheque, direct bank transfer, or via services such as CAF and Stewardship.

If you make a direct bank transfer, please let the Treasurer know so that we can check that it has arrived. Please send cheques to the Church Office.

Tax-efficient one-off gifts to St Peter's Church can also be made using the 'Stewardship' link on the giving page on the church website.

Cash donations can be made but for security and ease, we would encourage you to use one of the other methods if you possibly can.

Stewardship and CAF

If you would like more information about making one-off or regular donations via CAF or Stewardship, please speak to the Treasurer.

Legacies and wills

A gift in your Will to your local church is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support its mission and ministry. Once you have made provision for your loved ones, you also have the opportunity to make a lasting gift to God's work, by leaving a legacy to His church. No matter how large or small, each gift can make a significant impact on our mission and ministry.

Please consider how a gift in your Will could help St Peters meet the needs of future generations. For more information, please speak to the Treasurer.

Bank details

St Peter's

Cheques should be made payable to:

St Peter's Church

Bank transfers:

Bank:	CAF Bank
Account Name:	St Peter Le Poer Church
Sort Code:	40-52-40
Account Number:	00024912

Contact details

St Peter's

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