

## Step 3: How to give

### A. CASH (ENVELOPES)

You can give by cash each week at church. Regular giving envelopes are available from the Treasurers. These envelopes are numbered and work on a weekly basis. If you pay Tax then the Churches can increase your gift by nearly one third extra, and all this requires of you is the signing of one form or the use of the special Gift Aid envelopes! This gets us back an extra 28% from the Inland Revenue, so please do it. It is encouraged by the Government.

### B. STANDING ORDER

If you have a Bank or Building Society account you can authorise them to pay a set amount to either or both churches on a regular basis out of your account. This normally costs you nothing if you stay in credit. It is easy to alter the payment simply by contacting them. Standing Orders have the added advantages of ensuring regularity in giving, and in improving security by avoiding the use of cash. It is the method that your PCCs and Treasurers recommend.

For your convenience, the Treasurers have Standing Order forms. Fill in this form as you require, and hand it to a steward in church in a sealed envelope marked 'For the attention of the Church Treasurer only'. Please speak to your Church Treasurer if you are at all unclear on any of these matters.

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## For more information about...

- The biblical principles that are briefly outlined in this leaflet ... *contact the Vicar.*
- Gift Aid, Standing Orders, Envelopes.....
- How the financial affairs of the Churches are ordered.....
- The current budgets and financial position of our parishes...

... *contact your Church's Treasurer:*

*St. Andrew's, Kingham - Chris Roberts 658770*

*All Saints, Churchill - Keith Gowing 658579*

# Guidelines for Giving

## Supporting the work of the Gospel in Kingham & Churchill and beyond

We all know the theory: that we should give money to support God's work in our local church, and further afield. The aim of this leaflet is to help you work out what this means in practice. It will help you to evaluate (or re-evaluate):-

- The amount you would like to give, based on the biblical principles and your current income and circumstances;
- Where you would like this amount to be directed; and
- The way this can be arranged.

## Step 1: How much to give

### A. THE PRINCIPLE:

In the Old Testament, God's people gave a significant proportion of their income, around 25%, to God in response to his generous blessings to them ('tithes') — the annual 'Lord's Tithe' and 'Festival Tithe' and the three-yearly 'Poor Tithe'. It was to be given generously with much rejoicing, not grudgingly (Numbers 18; Deuteronomy 12, 14 & 26; 2 Chronicles 31; Malachi 3). The tithes were directed to God's work - to the priests and Levites who ran the Temple worship and the religious festivals - and to those in need, such as widows, orphans and foreigners.

As New Testament believers, we are still to give back to God in response to his generous blessings to us (note the language of "an offering acceptable to God" in Philippians 4:18). Indeed we have received God's ultimate generosity to us in the death of his Son, who though he was rich, for our sakes became poor, so that we might become rich (Philippians 2). If we truly understand this Gospel, we will cheerfully give as much as we can, and even beyond our ability (2 Corinthians chapters 8 & 9)!

## B. IN PRACTICE:

The first practical step is to work out how much income you have to start with after deduction of tax. Now prayerfully consider how much you would like to give. You can work out the actual amount using the table below. (It is for your use only - please don't return it!).

This process of working out how much to give will need to be repeated each year or so, or as your situation changes. Use monthly or weekly figures as suits your finances.

Salary/wages/pension etc.	£	per week/month*
Other income e.g. interest, benefits, etc.	£	per week/month*
My/our total income	£	per week/month*
Percentage or proportion I wish to give (e.g. 10%, 20%)		
So my monthly gift will be	£	per week/month*

\* Delete whichever does not apply.

## Step 2: Who to give to

### A. THE PRINCIPLE:

In the Old Testament, the Israelite tithes were channelled by God to those who needed it - to the priests and Levites who had no other source of income because of their duties, and to the poor of the land. We see a similar pattern in the New Testament. As Paul puts it in Galatians 6:6 "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor." Then, a few verses later, he says; "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." (Verse 10).

## B. IN PRACTICE:

In practice, this means giving not only to the local work of our churches, but to the work of the gospel further afield and to those in need.

Our churches' almost only source of income is the giving of the local congregations. Therefore, a large proportion of our gift should go towards supporting this. Having received this money, our churches then work closely with other missionary and charitable organisations and give 10% of that income to them. Thus, by giving to the churches, one tenth of your gift will be supporting these worthwhile outside causes.

But there may be other Christian organisations or charities that you wish to support. You can use the following table to work out how to divide up your gift, starting with your monthly or weekly gift which you worked out in the previous table.

We are aware that some are concerned at the thought of contributing to the central funds of the Church of England, especially at this time. In Kingham and Churchill we are in the fortunate position where the costs of ministry paid centrally on our behalf are more than we pay to the centre by way of the Parish Share. Thus, no money given to our parishes funds the Church of England centrally.

	%	My/our monthly/weekly gift
Church		
Other charities		
My/our total gift		

### C. MY WILL

One final thing to consider is leaving a legacy to your church's ministry in your will. (I hope your response is not "What will?") It is better left as a general legacy, perhaps with guidance to how you would like it used, than for one specified purpose.