

Regular Giving

*He said: 'Freely, freely, you have received,
Freely, freely give;
Go in My name, and because you believe,
others will know that I live.'*

(Chorus based on Matthew 10:8)

Part of the joy of being a member of a church is to be able to support its ministry in prayer, in service and in resources. Amongst the resources is financial support, as that enables a lot of other things to be done.

Our income

St James Church relies for 70% of its income on stewardship giving by its members. The remainder is made up from letting out the halls and the church, plus some interest from investing our reserves (through the Church Commissioners).

We do not receive any income from the government, the central bodies of the Church of England, or our own Diocese. We do not have the benefit of large historical legacies or endowments.

Our Expenditure

50% of our expenditure goes on wages: for our vicar (through the diocesan Benefice Share) and on our administrator, caretakers and children's team. The recruitment of a Youth Church Pastor will see this proportion increase. Another 35% goes on maintaining the building, insurance, paying utilities bills and consumables (office, children's work, etc), and the final 15% supports the work of our mission partners, both locally and wider afield, and the diocesan teams, such as those that advise on youth and children's work, and also the training of curates.

A red silhouette of a church building with a prominent steeple, spanning the width of the page at the bottom.

**Will you join us in
supporting the work
of our church?**

If you would like to see more details of our finances, visit <https://stjamestaunton.org/guidance-and-reports>

This leaflet is also available in a larger print version

Some principles for Christian giving

A lot has been written to encourage us to give as part of our witness to Christ. Even more has been written to encourage us to fund the church. Let's go back to first principles.

Live Generously

Go to the lost, confused people ... Tell them that the kingdom is here. Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables. ... You have been treated generously, so live generously. (Matthew 10:6-8)

Our giving is our response to God's love. We are asked to go out of our way to help others, to give generously of our time and respond to their deepest needs.

All wealth is God's, not just a 10% tithe

Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. (Deuteronomy 14:22)

Everything comes from you; all we're doing is giving back what we've been given from your generous hand. (1 Chronicles 29:14)

The Israelites gave a tenth of their produce to support the Temple worship and festivals, and to provide a safety-net for the 'foreigner, fatherless and widow'. The key though is that it's not 90% mine, 10% God's. It's all God's. He requires us to use it all well.

Our reward is in being a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven

Then the King will say ... 'Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! ... I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me.'

(Matthew 25:34-36)

Jesus links being a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven to the attitude of those who give freely wherever they see need. In the passage that follows, they express surprise, to which Jesus replies: ***'Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'***

So how do we work out how much we should give financially?

Sacrificial giving does not mean having to go without necessities. Instead, we should think about others and the needs of our community and be prepared to forego some optional luxuries available to us.

For many on low incomes, giving anything approaching a tenth to the church and other good causes would clearly be unreasonable. While you yourself might be prepared to forego necessities, this does not mean that your dependants should go without them. Also, we should not neglect our own health and risk putting avoidable demands on community services.

For many on high incomes, however, giving away a tenth would make no difference to their day-to-day lives. The challenge for them is very different.

For all of us, the key is to ask Jesus what to do next. If we share Jesus's concern for the people around us, we will want to give freely and not want to waste what we have on things that don't ultimately matter.

The ways in which you can give regularly

We recognise that the same way of giving may not suit everybody, so we have several options:

Parish Giving Scheme

This scheme is our preferred way for church members who wish to give a regular amount.

It deducts monthly payments by Direct Debit through a separate charity set up by and for the Church of England.

It reminds you annually to increase your giving in line with inflation, but this is optional.

The scheme automatically claims tax refunds every month for us, which smooths our cash flow instead of us making a single end-of-year claim.

Details of how to join the scheme are on the back page. <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/> gives full details of the scheme and how it helps givers, churches and treasurers.

Standing Orders

If you do not wish to use the Parish Giving Scheme, you can set up a Standing Order. There is a form in the rack on the 'Giving' display in the tower entrance, and also a Gift Aid declaration form. Please remember to review the amount each year – inflation affects us all!

Members who already give by Standing Order may prefer to stay with that method, but if you can, it will be easier all round if you could sign up to the PGS and cancel your Standing Order.

Envelopes

If you wish to give by cash or cheque, you can use one of the yellow envelopes and leave this in the collection plate on a Sunday morning. The envelope enables you to enter details for us to claim Gift Aid.

Gift Aid

If you are a taxpayer, all of the three methods above enable you to provide details to enable us to claim Gift Aid. This increases your donation by 25%. Don't worry if you are not sure if you pay enough tax for this: HMRC will correct for this when we make a claim.

A word about the Payaz machine: The card machine in the entrance is primarily for visitors. Donations are anonymous,, and we can claim Gift Aid only on amounts up to £30. If you wish to donate a larger amount and you are a taxpayer, please use one of the other methods.

Legacies

Legacies from the estates of both church members and other well-wishers help us to fund one-off projects such as major premises repairs and improvements, and pump-priming the employment of staff to meet a new need – such as recruiting a Youth Church Pastor.

Please see the 'Leaving a Legacy' leaflet in in the rack on the 'Giving' display in the entrance.

If you would like to talk to someone

Our Planned Giving Officer, Chris Rickard, will be pleased to help. Email her at christine.rickard@sky.com to arrange a time to meet.



PARISH
GIVING
SCHEME

*our preferred
way to give*

Introducing PGS

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a simple and secure way for churches to receive giving. All gifts handled by PGS are only given to the specific parish you choose.

It is a charity set up by the Church of England to enable parishes to handle all aspects of giving by members.

The administrative cost of operating the Scheme is covered by the National Church Institutions of the Church of England, making the regular giving service free to use for churches and givers.

How does it work for givers?

It works through Direct Debit, in the same way as any other Direct Debits you may use already, so it is fully secure.

You have control of how much you give and how often. You can make changes without having to make arrangements to talk to the Treasurer or Planned Giving Officer.

You have the option to increase a regular gift annually to protect your gift against inflation.

You can also make one-off gifts via Direct Debit, Credit and Debit Cards, Apple and Google Pay methods. (There is a low charge for one-off gifts.)

How does it help our church?

It takes the burden of most of the administration away from our Treasurer and Planned Giving Officer and provides them with online access to monthly statements.

PGS claims eligible Gift Aid from HMRC to save the church doing this. It is done monthly, which means we receive the refund regularly rather than making a big claim at the end of the year.

Setting up a regular gift

The easiest way is to click on the QR code or follow the link to our page on the PGS website, and then follow the instructions. The code and link also work for one-off gifts.

Alternatively, you can telephone PGS on 0333 002 1271, or you may prefer to speak to our Planned Giving Officer, Chris Rickard, who also has access to paper application forms. Email her at christine.rickard@sky.com to arrange a time to meet.

Click on the QR code to go to our church page on the PGS website.

Or follow this link:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/st-james-taunton>

[Edition: 8/26]

