

# Why Give?

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

**THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING** supporting the work of St John's!

There are many reasons why you should consider giving to God's church:

- *Responding to God's Generosity*

The heart of the Christian faith is that God in His infinite kindness gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. God in His love gives to sinful undeserving people unlimited grace and forgiveness and generosity. When we give it is an act of thankfulness to God for all that He has given us.

- *Recognising God's Sovereignty*

When we give to God we recognise that 'all things come from God' (1 Chron 29:11). Everything we have comes from God and is not just ours to own but given to us to 'steward' or 'administer'. Giving generously is a way of acknowledging this and also a way of entrusting ourselves to God's care knowing that we need not worry as He will provide for all our needs (Matt 6:25-34).

- *Supporting the needs of the Church*

The church exists to worship God and make Him known to the world. By giving our money we can glorify God not just in our own hearts but also to the world as people see the dedication and commitment of church members as they invest money in the church's ministry and outreach to the community.

## HOW TO GIVE

The bible has a lot to teach us about how we should give. In the Old Testament, the general practice was to give a tithe (10% of income) as well as occasional thanksgiving offerings. The New Testament reinforces this but also emphasises the attitude of the heart. This can be summarised as:

- *Giving Sacrificially*

Jesus praised those who gave sacrificially and abundantly out of what they had (e.g. the poor widow – Luke 21:1-4). Some will give more, some will give less. The importance is not the quantity but the quality. For Jesus the cost to the giver was much more important than the amount given.

- *Giving Thoughtfully*

It is important to think carefully about what we have been given, what our responsibilities are with what we have and how we can give money in the most effective way.

- *Giving Joyfully*

God loves a cheerful giver and it is important not to feel compelled to give out of guilt or to seek the praise of others but to give joyfully and with thanksgiving.

## The Financial Need

*The mission and ministry of St John's depends entirely on the financial support of individual church members.*

In November 2013 the church held an open meeting to pray and discuss the vision of the how the church should go forward.

Three key areas were agreed:

- Building up the fellowship of St John's spiritually and socially focusing on discipleship and developing relationships.
- Reaching out and developing our work with children and young people.
- Increasing our witness of Christ in the community.

*St John's is in a wonderful position to develop this vision, invest in the future and grow its ministry in these three areas.*

Therefore we would like everyone – new members and old – to reassess their regular giving. We would love you to make a special point of thinking how best you can support the life of St John's as we seek to make this vision a reality. So we ask, can you:

- **Pray** – ask God how you can best support His church with the money He has entrusted to you.
- **Think** – carefully review your own finances and consider how to put into practice the Biblical principles outlined above.
- **Act** – decide on an amount that you can give either regularly and/or as a one-off and commit to making your gift. We encourage everybody to get involved at whatever level they can, because generous and sacrificial giving is part of our worship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Getting Started

You can give in any of the following ways:

1. **Regular Standing Order.**

*The most helpful way to support St John's is to set up a Standing Order with your bank.*

Once you have decided how much to donate to the church, you can set up the arrangement with

your bank who automatically process your gifts each month in accordance with your instructions. It saves you time, means that you don't forget and it helps the church with its financial planning.

Our preferred method is for you to complete and return our *Confidential Giving Response Form*, which includes the bank standing order instructions (please tick the Gift Aid box if you are a taxpayer). We will then forward these details to your bank on your behalf.

Alternatively, you can quickly set up a standing order using your online or telephone banking and by quoting this bank account information:

**Recipient (or beneficiary) account name:**

St John's Parochial Church Council

**Sort code:** 20-67-88 (Barclays Bank plc)

**Account No:** 40787302

2. **Envelope Scheme**, where we provide you with 52 dated envelopes for your weekly cash/cheque gift; placed into the Sunday service collection.
3. **Cheque or charity voucher** (e.g. CAF voucher or Stewardship), payable to "St John's Parochial Church Council".
4. **Direct bank payment.** You can use your online or telephone banking to make a payment to "St John's Parochial Church Council" (same bank details as above).

## IF YOU ARE A UK TAX PAYER

Make your gift go further by completing and returning a Gift Aid

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declaration - you can do this by using the Giving Response Form and ticking the relevant box. Thank you!

St John's Leytonstone  
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Leytonstone  
E11 1HH

[www.stjohns-leytonstone.org.uk](http://www.stjohns-leytonstone.org.uk)

[churchtreasurersstj@gmail.com](mailto:churchtreasurersstj@gmail.com)

**Bank Details**

Account Name: St John's Parochial Church Council  
Account No. 40787302 Sort Code: 20-67-88

*St John's Leytonstone is part of the Church of England in the Diocese of Chelmsford*

# ST JOHN'S LEYTONSTONE

# Giving your money to support the work of St John's

