

Giving to God's Work through the Church in the Parish of St. Mary's and St. John's, Walton-on-Thames

This leaflet explores *Why we give, Ways to give, How Much we should give and What our giving goes to.*

Why we Give

There are many passages in Scripture that teach about giving. In one, 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15, we discover 10 reasons to give generously to God



1. **Giving is the *best investment* you can make**

Like the harvest, giving is planting seed. The farmer will reap far more than what was sown (v.6). This applies to everything in life. What you give to the Lord, He multiplies – your time, gifts, ambitions and money.

2. **Giving should be *fun***

Giving should be voluntary and cheerful 'for God loves a cheerful giver' (v.7). Generosity leads to happiness.

3. **Giving *takes away the burden of financial worry***

(v.8) Giving does not mean handing over financial responsibility to God; but it does mean handing over the worry and the burden of it.

4. **Giving *'enriches' you***

When God invites you to give, he is appealing to your reason as well as your emotions: Materially, you will have enough to give away generously your character will be enriched and God will be praised (v.10 & 11)

5. **Giving *transforms your character***

Giving purges the character from the constricting grip of materialism that destroys lives (v.10b).

6. **Giving *inspires others***

'... your generosity will result in *thanksgiving to God...*' (vv.11b–13a).

7. **Giving *meets people's needs***

Generous giving blesses other people and supplies the needs of God's people (v.12).

8. **Giving is *evidence of real faith***

Generous giving is an act of obedience, which should accompany 'your confession of the gospel of Christ' (v.13). Giving is an act of trust in God.

9. **Giving *makes you a stakeholder in the church***

In the same way as when you share a flat or apartment and you share in the bills, as you share in the needs of the Church community you reap the benefits of that community (v.13b).

10. Giving is a response to God's gift to you

God so loved you that he gave his one and only Son so that you might have eternal life (John 3:16). Our giving is a response to God's amazing grace. His 'incredible gift' (2 Cor 9:15) is the gift of his Son.

'Thank God for this gift, his gift. No language can praise it enough' (v.15)

Ways to Give

For our regular Church members, we encourage giving by:

1. The Parish Giving Scheme

A Direct Debit scheme, with the administration done by a third party and gift aid is collected and paid monthly to the Parish. Printed details are available in both Churches. Currently, a paper system only; not online



2. Standing Order

Paid directly into the Church's Bank Account:
Sort Code: 40-52-40;
Account Number: 0001 3192
Account Name: Walton on Thames PCC

Pay it by
standing
order



3. The weekly envelope scheme

In addition to the regular giving options, you can give through:

1. One-off or regular gifts by Cheque
2. One-off or regular gifts by cash in the envelopes provided
3. Text Giving

You can text up to £10 in any donation and donate up to three times every day by this method. Text **smsj00 £10** to give £10. The cost appears on your phone bill rather than directly on your Bank account. (smsj00 for St. Mary's and St. John's!)

4. Just Giving We are looking to set up a Just Giving page.
5. Everyday purchases

When you buy almost anything online, you can help raise money for the Church. Use the website **easyfundraising.org.uk** and choose to donate to the Parish of Walton-on-Thames. It costs you nothing, is straightforward and benefits the Parish financially.

Gift Aid – add to your donation

Whatever way we give, if UK taxpayers sign a gift aid form and the giver can be identified, the Church can claim back the tax on the gift from the government! This adds 25p for every £1 given by gift aid.

Example: You donate £100 to the Church. The Church claims Gift Aid from the government to make your donation £125. That is wise, tax-efficient giving. (If you are a higher rate tax payer you can personally claim back tax on your gift)



How much should I give?

Initially, you may find it more helpful in your family discussions to consider giving to the Church like a regular subscription? Many of us belong to gyms, sports clubs or whatever and we pay monthly.



But, how much should I give?

The Bible talks about giving a tithe; that is 10% of what we earn each month. That is what your leaders do.

But that may be an impossible number for you. If you consider it like a membership subscription, how much would you give?

In considering what the Parish needs, the 2018 budget, after funding from the Church Fund Trust, is £244,000; or £20,350 per month; or £4,700 per week.

If the average adult weekly attendance across the Sunday services in both churches is 200 people; that is approximately £24 per week per person attending or just over £100 per month per person.

What are you willing and able to give to the Church on a regular basis? Could it be somewhere between £75 a month and a tithe (10%) of your income? Could you manage £100 a month?

As an individual, if your finances are stretched, perhaps you could think about what you could do without in order to give £75 each month? One example could be:

- Two cups of coffee a week (2 x £3 x 4 weeks)	£24
- One lunch out	£12
- One bottle of wine	£ 7
- Homemade lunch twice a week (2 x £4 x 4 weeks)	<u>£32</u>
	<u>£75</u>

Parish of St. Mary and St. John, Walton-on-Thames

Vicars

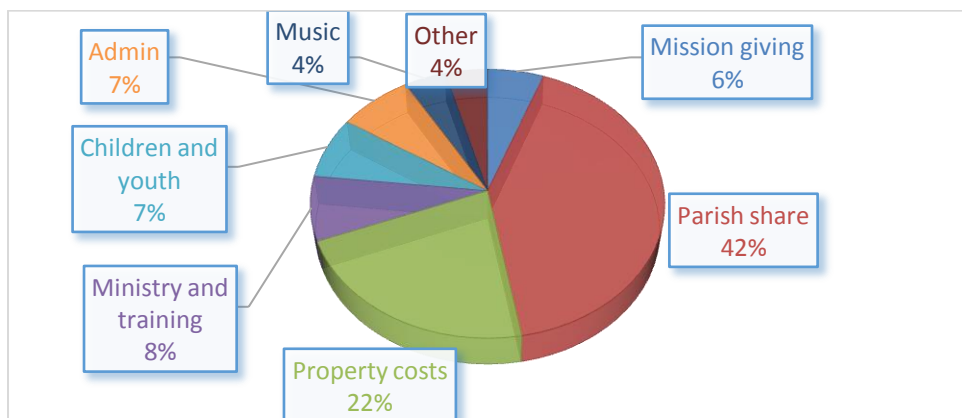
Rev Cathy Blair and Rev Jonny Blair
27 Bowes Road. W-o-T. KT12 3HT
e-mail: vicar@waltonparish.org.uk
Tel: 01932 917 736

Parish Office

St Mary's Church Hall, Church St.
Walton-on-Thames. KT12 2QS
e-mail: office@waltonparish.org.uk
Tel: 01932 224 238
Open: Tues to Fri 9.30am-12.30pm

What my Giving goes to

In 2018, the Parish expects to spend £285,000 on the following:



Our largest item of expenditure is the **Parish Share**, set annually by, and payable to the Diocese of Guildford. For 2018 this is expected to be in the region of £118,000 and covers a range of benefits to the Parish such as the stipend for one vicar; the housing costs for our vicars; support services offered by the Diocese and contribution to the national church for the training of clergy.

Maintaining properties; two Church buildings, St Mary's Hall and 3 houses, is expensive. In recent years we have spent significant funds on maintaining buildings, such as the roof at St Mary's, the replacement of windows at St John's and the painting of St Mary's Hall. There is also the ever increasing cost of utilities; insurance; interest payments; and the general maintenance. We are fortunate to benefit from annual grants from the Church Fund Trust. Our 2018 spending anticipates funding of £40,000 if granted by the Trustees.

The balance of income for St. Mary's and St. John's is from hall hire and Church attenders, with the latter accounting for the vast majority.

Our work with **children and youth** costs just over £21,000 (excluding possible new position). A similar amount is spent on **ministry and training**.

We set aside 10% of giving to fund **Mission** at home and overseas. We support international charities such as Tearfund and Compassion and local charities including Walton and Hersham Foodbank.

The **balance of expenditure**, £45,000, relates to the administrative and operational costs of running the Parish and the provision of music.

Unless Church attenders raise their regular giving for 2018, we will be £43,000 short in funding our anticipated costs for the year.