

If you are not sure where to start in planning how much to give then there are some guidelines for giving:

- The Church of England currently recommends an initial target of 5% of after tax income given to the church, with additional contributions to charities.
- Zacchaeus gave half of what he had (and 4x all he had taken from others deceitfully!)

This reminds us that our giving is between God and us. It reminds us to think about it proactively, rather than just giving what is left in our pocket. By prayerful consideration, we can make decisions about our giving which acknowledge all God has given us and all he has done for us and we will see his work here in Tongham continue to grow and flourish.

Action/Response:

Please pray about what you should give and how you can give.

If you qualify for the gift aid scheme, please pick up a gift aid form from the back of church (this applies to existing gift aid givers too – see below)

If you can give time, join one of our regular rotas/teams, or sign up for the occasional volunteers team.

If you have skills, tools or expertise, let Claire or Wendy know so this can go on our resources register.

Please rest assured that all giving is treated as a confidential matter.

“God will accept your gift on the basis of what you have to give not on what you haven’t”

2 Corinthians Ch 8 v 12

Note: Please could everyone who is eligible for the Gift Aid scheme, fill out one of the **new** Gift Aid forms – not many have done so!

At St Paul's we can thank God for His goodness over the years! This year, as ever, we have seen exciting things happen and have ensured we are looking after our buildings too.

We are hugely grateful to all who have contributed to general funds or the ramp project. We have challenges ahead but will discuss this more at the APCM.

In February we were thinking about our response to God, as we encounter Him and in thanks for His love and many blessings to us.

We had a great service looking at how we are all part of the church and when we work together, using our different gifts – young and old – then it is amazing what we can achieve. In our 5 minute challenge we tidied the vestry, did jobs in the churchyard, found spring kneelers and wrote some prayers! Please come to our next maintenance day!

We also considered how we spend our time – which challenged many of us as we approached Lent. Offering our time to God enables Him to speak to us, guide us and help us serve Him in the church and wider community. Can you match (or better) time spent with or serving God, and time with family, or time spent on social media?!

And we also looked at Zacchaeus and the transformation that took place when he encountered God. It was life-changing in many different ways, but in particular, it affected the way he saw money. Money was no longer his focus as he tried to find value and status. But instead he gave it away, generously: in response to God's forgiveness, welcome, love and new life.

**What is our generous response to all God gives us?
And how does it help?**



Our finances are made up of a general fund and a maintenance fund. The general fund includes money to pay for:

- **Parish share** - like every church we have to contribute a sum to the diocese which is then used for pay, housing, support roles and training for clergy (Claire!) and support for those who have retired. (£3521 per month) **This is going to change in the future – please come to APCM to find out more**
- **Running costs** - utility bills (gas, electricity, telephone, water), insurance (£750)
- **Staff costs** - we pay for admin, cleaning each week and for a verger (less this year as we did not have a verger for much of the year) (£285 per month)
- **Activities** - costs for materials, refreshments, advertising etc. - the resources we need to do children's work, youth work and cover expenses (£375 per month)
- **Mission** – we give regularly to our chosen charities and organisations. This year we are supporting Phyllis Tuckwell, Nepal Mission and Blythswood Care (£300)
- **Projects and Maintenance** – this varies from year to year – last year we bought new heaters, covered half of our gardening costs and other basic maintenance – We can use our maintenance fund for this and we often put some of our Gift Aid money in this account ready to cover such costs

The total is about £5000 per month in regular costs plus maintenance and projects which last year was £1170 per month. This year it should include ramp and roof project.

All of this money has to come from our giving (plus gift aid), fees from weddings and funerals, income from the Old School, fundraising, grants and legacies; we have no other income. Our monthly giving is about £3800 per month with £350 from fees (but unpredictable!) and £700 from Old School. Total average income was £4850. As this shows, we need to be ensuring our giving goes up to continue to cover costs.

Ways to Give

The good news is that we can contribute in many different ways:

- **regular giving** through envelopes/standing order
- **occasional giving** in the collection
- **one-off donations** eg. for a particular project or need
- **buying resources** for activities as a contribution - please fill in an expenses form so we can still get gift aid
- **donating expertise**, saving us money e.g. PAT testing, repairing equipment, printing
- **time, tools and talents** e.g. cleaning event, maintenance day, gardening

Gift Aid forms are available at the back of church. If you have any questions, please talk to a member of the PCC, or to Sue Treherne, our book keeper.

Expenses forms are available from the church office.

office@stpaulstongham.org.uk



Projects

The project to build a new ramp and upgrade the porch is an exciting development which will provide accessibility to the church for all, as well as making the entrance much more welcoming and keeping us warmer too! We have raised over £10000 so far and are waiting for quotes to move forward with this.

Our roof repairs began in March – we will be glad to get these done and are grateful to the grant from Listed Place of Worship Fund to allow this to happen.