

## How do you see your relationship & commitment to the church?

### Survival

I give a bit when I'm asked because the church ought to be there in case I need it.

The need is survival and there's a chance that the church might help.

The relationship with the church is that I know it's there if I need it — all being well, I won't!

### Supermarket

I'm happy to pay towards the cost of the bits of the church that I want and enjoy.

The need is safety and by treating the church on my terms, I feel safe and unchallenged.

I see myself as a customer.

### Support

The work of the Church is important and so I'll support it

I have a need for belonging.

I see myself as a member of the supporters' club.

### Subscription

I see myself as a member and I wish to contribute to my fair share of the costs.

The need is identity — I'm recognised as I'm playing my part.

### Submission

My understanding of being a disciple is that I should put God first in my life.

I see a deeper meaning in life and my giving responds to God and not just the needs of the Church.

### Sacrifice

God gave His Son Jesus to die for me, so I need to respond to His generosity.

My Christian calling is to be Christ-like and so naturally I give joyfully and sacrificially — following Christ.

## Q: How much should I give?

A: It's totally up to you!

There are more than 2300 verses in the Bible about money and possessions! More than a third of Jesus' parables were about our relationship to wealth — but mostly in terms of what our heart attitude is — rather than what we can afford. That is why it is a good principle when thinking and praying about regular financial giving to consider what percentage of your income might be possible, rather than a fixed sum.

Some people have no independent financial means of their own; others have shared financial obligations — giving is a complicated issue — but here are some ideas to help you decide:

### Tithing

In the Old Testament, tithing was the law. That was one tenth of all one's total income. Today some people give one tenth of their income after tax, others from their total income.

### Part Tithing

The General Synod of the Church of England encourages us to give 5% of our income after tax to God's work through the local Church and a further 5% to charities.

### First Fruits

Some may prefer to give an hour's pay or so each week.

### Proportionate Giving

We may prefer to give a different percentage of our income after tax.

Gifts or donations can be made by cheque, payable to "PCC Tilehurst St Catherine", and bank transfers to **Sort Code 60-17-21, Account No. 99132109.**

Charities Commission No. 1155524

Please use this slip for your response

I want to support the work of the church by:

- Direct Debit through the Parish Giving Scheme (our preferred way of giving)
- Standing Order
- Gift Aiding the above

Your name.....  
Address.....  
.....  
.....  
Phone number.....  
Email.....

What to do with the completed slip

- Leave it in the offerings plate
- Hand it to a sidesperson or welcomer
- or Post it to

Parish Administrator  
St Catherine's Church  
Wittenham Avenue  
Tilehurst  
RG31 5LN

## Our finances

In a normal year it costs over £100,000 every year to run St Catherine's Church, and our activities, mission, maintenance and worship are funded by giving from the congregation, and through Centre Hall hire. If you would like a copy of our Annual Report, please contact us.

We welcome gifts, donations and legacies.

The Parish Giving Scheme is an efficient means to give regularly, and where we can reclaim tax through Gift Aid, we do so.

### Where does our money go?

#### Figures for 2020:

Parish Share*	£ 60,000
Missions†	£ 3,000
Church Expenses <sup>x</sup>	£ 17,800
Hall & Café Expenses <sup>x</sup>	£ 13,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£94,000</b>

\*The 'Parish Share' is allocated by the Reading Deanery and is based on the number of people on the church Electoral Roll, the demographic of our area, and numbers of clergy.

It covers things like clergy salaries, pensions, housing, training and continuing ministerial education, Deanery and Diocesan expenses and mission to deprived Parishes.

†Our current Missions giving is 6% of income, our strategy is to increase this every year by 1% until it reaches at least 10%.

<sup>x</sup>2020 was the year of Covid, so these figures are less than normal

## What can I do to help?

Here are a few suggestions:

### Regular Giving

If you have not already signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme, please contact Joanne Freeman for details. It is easy, effective and efficient.

### Gift Aid

If you are a Taxpayer make sure any giving is Gift Aided, as we will then also receive any tax paid on your gift - that's £1 for every £4 given.

### Bequeath money to the church

You may also like to consider bequeathing to the Church (all monies left to charities are not taxed and are not considered for inheritance tax).

### One-off Donation

If you are fortunate to have a windfall, think about a one-off donation which can be allocated to a specific project of your choice.

### If you purchase anything for the Church

Please claim for it, and you can donate the money back to the Church, either by bank transfer or by putting it in the offerings plate.

### Contacts

To discuss how you can give to our work, our PCC Treasurer, Joanne Freeman (Tel: 0118 941 2865 or email [treasurer@stcatherines-tilehurst.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stcatherines-tilehurst.org.uk)) or our Gift Aid Secretary, Stephanie Walklate (email [giving@stcatherines-tilehurst.org.uk](mailto:giving@stcatherines-tilehurst.org.uk)) will discuss any issues confidentially and without obligation.



We thank God that every year he provides for our Church's needs



**St Catherine's Tilehurst**  
Wittenham Avenue, RG31 5LN

# Resourcing God's Mission

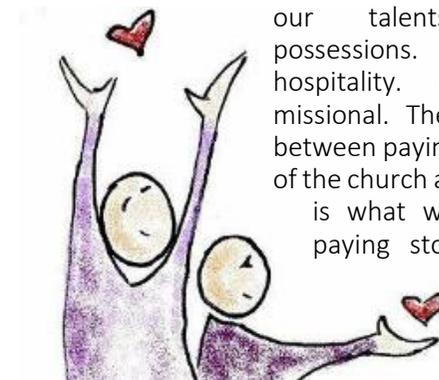
## Our Parish Purpose

**To worship God and show that Jesus' love makes a difference in reaching, serving and caring.**

The Bible shows us that we have an extravagantly generous God – who has given us life, creation, and ultimately his Son Jesus, who gave of himself utterly, to the point where he died on the cross, for us. How should we respond?

2 Corinthians 9:7 says this: "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly, or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." The Greek word for cheerful can be interpreted "hilarious". *That's very cheerful indeed!*

Giving is not just about money, it's part of our discipleship. It includes the way we spend our time, our talents and our possessions. It's about hospitality. It's about being missional. There's a difference between paying for the running of the church and giving. Giving is what we do when the paying stops, out of the overflow of our hearts.



Diocese of Oxford