

St Peter w St James Brackley 2017



Mark 12v 43 & 44 — Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.'

Do you know what it costs to run our church each **week in 2017?**

£ 1,415	for our stipendiary clergy, housing, training and support cost, and clergy expenses.
£ 185	on our building, including heating, lighting and insurance
£ 320*	on building maintenance and churchyard
£ 440	on Sunday worship and other Ministry costs
£. 20	on charitable giving
£ 2,390	Total expenditure

Do you know what our income is each **week?**

£ 1,000	direct or planned giving
£ 282	tax recovering from Gift Aided donations
£ 288	from fees charged
£ 80	from fundraising
£ 510	weekly offerings & donations
£ 98	other income
£ 2,258	Total income

£132 per week shortfall

How can we meet this challenge?

In two ways: firstly, by increasing the number of people giving regularly and secondly, by those who already give, reviewing their level of giving.

The average giving to our Church is about 3%. If the average giving to our Church was 5% we wouldn't have a shortfall.

*This does not include major repairs identified in the recent Quinquennial inspection.

Bishop Donald is leading our Diocese in church growth, an increase in numbers and in Discipleship. There is a cost to this ministry which needs to be funded.

What Can I do?

We give in response to the God who is so generous to us but how much are we to give? The decision will be yours alone, but here are some guiding principles:

- *Give to God first. God honours us when we carefully plan our giving rather than give what is left once all other needs are met.*
- *Give generously! The Church of England suggests we aim to give 5% of our income, after tax, to our church. That's a challenge! The bible teaches us to give 10% of our income to God's work.*
- *Giving is good. Jesus said "it is more blessed to give than to receive." As we give, we are blessed, our church is blessed and our community is blessed – and God is honoured!*
- *Give yourself! Spend time praying for growth of the church and for other causes that you support. Keep up to date with what they are doing so that your prayers and your giving are properly informed.*
- *Generosity overflows when we are caught up in God's extravagant love and self-giving.*
- *When was the last time you worked out what 5% of your income is? It won't take a moment!*

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a better way to give than the offertory plate each week?

Obviously if you feel strongly about giving in this way, we are happy to receive your offering, but if we know what our regular weekly/monthly income is going to be, we are more able to plan our budget and expenditure.

Why should I pay by standing order as opposed to the envelope scheme?

The envelope scheme does suit many, but we feel the standing order method has a number of advantages because:-

- The money goes straight from your account to the church
- It will improve our cash flow considerably.
- The money collected through envelopes is slower to process and tax only reclaimed once a year
- You also won't have to raid your wallet or purse each week, looking for cash.

What should I do if I already have a Standing Order?

You should contact your bank and ask them to make the necessary changes, or you can fill in the separate yellow pledge regular payment pledge.

I feel embarrassed by not having anything to put in the offering plate!

There is no need to feel embarrassed as we hope to have a lot of people on the scheme, and the sidespeople do understand that some of the congregation give in this way. We also have little cards available at the back of church to pick up with your service books. You can put it in the bag when the offering is taken.

Why should I give to the church when I don't go each week?

There are many occasions when the church is there for us in time of need, whether we believe it or not. It is part of our community. If the church does not increase its income, then eventually it may not be there for us. It will become lost to the community both present and future.

Do I have to tell anyone who might contact me how much I am giving?

No, your contribution should be made prayerfully, between you and God, and the details are treated in the strictest of confidence and are only recorded by the Treasurer for tax purposes.

Please contact John Carter on 01280 703178