

Giving for Life

On the first day of every week, each of you
is to put something aside
and store it up, as he may prosper,
so that contributions need not be made when I come.

1 Corinthians 16.2

When do I give?

If we follow the advice given by St Paul (which restates teaching delivered by Moses), we should give on the day we receive our income – be it monthly or weekly. Bank Standing Orders (or envelopes) can make this process very easy as our giving back to God can occur on the day we get paid.

How much should I give?

This is a question that each of us should ask ourselves regularly. The answer will depend upon:-

- our understanding of God's love for us
- our response to Christian teaching about money, wealth and generosity.
- our own family circumstances

How do you decide what to give?

- Some people see what **loose change** they have in their purse or wallet on Sunday morning.
- Some Christians remember the **Old Testament tithe** (10%) and give that.
- The official Church of England initial target is to give **5% of after-tax income** to and through the church. This would amount to £1 per week for every £1,000 of annual take-home pay. This allows the remaining part of our Biblical standard of giving to be directed to where the Holy Spirit prompts us.
- The national average actually achieved is around 3.4% to the church.

Sometimes statistics (see box) can help you measure your own contribution. But in the end, the actual amount doesn't matter; it's the spirit in which you give that counts.

Finance fact:

In 2017, the average gift in the Diocese of Bath & Wells was **£11.90** per week.

The national average was **£13.00**.

In the Diocese of Bristol it was **£15.00**. In London it was **£23.30!**

**Give to the Lord
what is right,
not what is left**

Ask yourself:-

- How much do I give?
- How much **could** I give?
- How much **should** I give?

Giving Guide

The principle of 'tithing' has Biblical origins, donating a tenth of your salary to the Church or other good causes. The tables below are designed to help you easily see what this means in terms of a regular donation for various levels of income. It also shows the 5% recommended as a donation to the Church and 1% to help you scale a donation which feels right for you.

Monthly donations

Annual Income Before Tax	Monthly Donation		
	10%	5%	1%
£5,000	£42	£21	£4
£10,000	£74	£37	£7
£20,000	£131	£66	£13
£30,000	£189	£94	£19
£40,000	£246	£123	£25
£50,000	£294	£147	£29
£60,000	£344	£172	£34
£70,000	£394	£197	£39
£80,000	£444	£222	£44
£90,000	£494	£247	£49
£100,000	£544	£272	£54

Weekly donations

Annual Income Before Tax	Weekly Donation		
	10%	5%	1%
£5,000	£10	£5	£1
£10,000	£17	£8	£2
£20,000	£30	£15	£3
£30,000	£44	£22	£4
£40,000	£57	£28	£6
£50,000	£68	£34	£7
£60,000	£79	£40	£8
£70,000	£91	£45	£9
£80,000	£102	£51	£10
£90,000	£114	£57	£11
£100,000	£125	£63	£13

For information about ways to grow your giving, contact Sue Whitehead, PA to the Giving and Funding Adviser, Diocese of Bath & Wells, 01749 670777, sue.whitehead@bathwells.anglican.org.