

GIVING



**to support Gospel
ministry at Deane
Parish Church**

June 2014

Thank you

Firstly I would like to say thank you.

Over the years many people have given generously and sacrificially of time, effort and money to support Gospel ministry here at Deane and that giving has been invaluable in supporting ongoing and new things. For example we have been able to:

- maintain our amazing historic building. It is a privilege to be stewards of it, although of course it does bring with it some challenges. The building is in a good state of repair and it is fantastic that we have recently been able to re-decorate the building internally. We will continue to explore ways that we can improve the facilities e.g. by providing a wheelchair accessible toilet and a better kitchen and by improving lighting.
- establish the Church Administrator and Church Centre Manager post which has transformed how church activities integrate and how we are able to project into the wider community.
- support the mission week that we held in 2013. Working with the three churches closest to us, and a team from Oak Hill Theological College, reaching out into the local community with various events and publicity.
- buy, refurbish and open our new Church Centre. Now home to our church office and a number of groups and meetings, we have also seen the café get up and running and new opportunities such as Messy Church get started.



These are just some of the ways that giving in recent years has helped to build Kingdom work at Deane Church now and into the future. ***In the past few years a number of people have come to saving faith in Jesus Christ through the Gospel ministry at Deane. We praise God for this and acknowledge what a huge privilege it is to be part of this ongoing Kingdom work. There is far more to come!***



God has given each of us so very much, including himself when he died upon the Cross. Jesus died so that we can gain forgiveness, salvation and new life. Our lives in this world, our bodies, our relationships and our material possessions are gifts from God and he could at any moment take any of them away. As is often said at funerals *“Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord”* (Job 1:21). God entrusts us with the stewardship of all the good things he *loans* to us and we must not behave as if they were ours. They belong to him.

You may be reading this booklet as someone who has given to the work at Deane over a number of years; perhaps you are reviewing your giving, as we encourage everybody to do regularly. Or you may be reading this because you are thinking about giving for the first time. Wherever you're starting from we hope that this booklet will help you to think through why giving is part of living the way God wants us to live as well as giving you helpful information about how you can do it most effectively.

Please take time to pray and ask God to help you decide how best you can use all that he has given to you to support the work that he is doing at and through Deane Parish Church.

*Terry Clark
Deane Rectory
20th June 2014*

What does the Bible say about giving?

There is no shortage of Biblical material on giving, with over 2,300 verses in the Bible on money, wealth and possessions. Jesus talked about it frequently, and over one-third of his parables relate to these topics. This material suggests giving should be:

- **a priority** – assessed in relation to all of our income, and not simply the spare change after all other needs have been satisfied. (e.g. Deut 26.2-3, 1 Cor 16.2, 2 Cor 8.5)
- **prayerful** – an act of worship and thanksgiving. (e.g. 1 Chron 29.10-14)
- **planned** – but not prescriptive, and allowing spontaneous generosity. (e.g. 2 Cor 9.7)
- **proportionate** – a realistic proportion of our income. (e.g. 1 Cor 16.2, 2 Cor 8.11-13)
- **given in community** – both for the needs of others, and given with others for a common purpose. (e.g. Acts 2.42-47, 2 Cor 8.13,14). The act of giving shifts our focus from individual wants to a communal need, demonstrating solidarity with the poor and a commitment to working together in mission.
- **sacrificial** – in that there is a cost to our giving. As a result, we will have less to spend on ourselves, and our lifestyles will reflect this. Those who have more to give, will give more. (e.g. Luke 21.1-4, 2 Cor 8.2-4) ,
- **cheerfully and joyfully given** – whether giving of money, time or hospitality, we give with grace from the heart, as an offering to God. (e.g. 2 Cor 9.7,8)

The scope of Christian giving is not just financial giving but how we use the money, time, talents and possessions God has entrusted to us. Generous giving should become second nature to us, and as it becomes so, our living and our giving are transformed to start to resemble the overflowing generosity of God.

How much should I give?

The New Testament is not prescriptive about this. In the Old Testament, God instructs his people to tithe (give a set proportion of) 10% of their income. Many Christians today, including some at Deane Church, find this a good rule for how much to give as a *minimum*, e.g.

If your income were £550 a month, tithing would give £55 a month. Gift Aided this would be worth £66 a month or £792 a year.

If your income were £1,200 a month, tithing would give £120 a month. Gift Aided this would be worth £144 a month or £1,728 a year.

Those with no other income except the basic state pension (£113.10 a week at time of writing this) or benefits may struggle to tithe and make ends meet but God encourages generosity even from those who have little financially:

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they

urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

2 Corinthians 8:1-4

The General Synod of the Church of England picking up on the 10% tithe encourages us to give 5% of income to our local church and 5% to other charities (such as Christian Aid and Tear Fund) to relieve poverty and other suffering:

“General Synod... challenges church members to assess annually their financial giving as a proportion of income, and to give as an initial target 5% of after-tax income to and through the church, and a similar amount to other work that helps to build God's kingdom in times of economic stringency as well as plenty, in response to the lavish generosity of God to us in Christ.”

How much you give is ultimately between you and God.

How do we use the money that we are given?

For every **£1** that we are given, we spend:



- 47p** on Parish Share
- 29p** on buildings / property (including utilities)
- 15p** on staffing costs (excluding clergy stipends)
- 6p** on administration
- 2p** on worship
- 1p** on giving to mission beyond Deane

The money that we give to Manchester Diocese through our parish share payment is primarily used to cover the costs of clergy stipends, National Insurance and pensions. It also covers clergy housing and training costs. The average annual cost of one member of clergy, including salary, pension, national insurance and housing costs, is roughly £45,000. In 2013 we paid just less than £53,000 to the Diocese which means that we benefit from the giving of other churches to fund both our Rector and Curate posts.

We have a set of core Biblical values which underpin all that we do at Deane. Increasingly we want to make sure that the way in which we use the money that God entrusts us with is in line with those values. This is a quick summary:



Celebrating... the goodness of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in our lives.

Learning... to live by God's Word, in Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Accepting... the unconditional love of our heavenly Father and loving others in the same way.

Welcoming... all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

Supporting... one another to be and become the people God created us to be.

Sharing... with all the love and good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed

You can pick up a copy of our Core Values leaflet in church if you want to know more.

How can I give?

Different people give in different ways. These are some of the ways in which you can give:

1. Giving financially

Standing Order – This involves setting up an automatic payment through your bank so that money is paid from your account to Deane Church on a regular basis (maybe weekly, fortnightly or monthly). Giving in this way is particularly helpful because it gives us a regular guaranteed income which helps us to budget properly. Giving in this way also means that you don't have to make sure that you have cash with you on a Sunday morning! These days very few people in the UK do not have a current account.

Weekly giving envelopes – We provide you with a set of envelopes, one for each week of the year. You put your donation inside and put it on the collecting plate when this is passed round in church. Weekly envelopes also help us to budget as we have an idea of what we will receive each week. However this isn't guaranteed if somebody is away or misses a week. If you are new to giving however, then having a weekly envelope can help you to be disciplined about giving regularly.

Putting money on the collection plate – There is an opportunity during services to give as a collection plate is passed around. This again is valuable income, but as we

don't know how much money will be put on the plate each week it isn't as helpful in allowing us to budget properly.

Justtextgiving – This allows you to give simply by sending a text message from your mobile phone. The amount that you give is then either taken from your phone credit or added to your phone bill depending on how you pay. There is also an opportunity to Gift Aid your donation.



To give through Justtextgiving all you need to do is text DEAN42 and the amount you would like to give to 70070. It's as easy as that (do make sure you check with whoever pays your phone bill though, if it isn't you!)

Making a legacy - see below.

Thank-you gifts - In addition to any regular giving, from time to time members of church, and sometime others, want to express their thanks to God or mark a special event by making a one-off gift to the work of Deane Church. Gifts might also be made in remembrance and with thanks for a family member or friend who has died.

Funding of specific projects - Do you have the vision for / is God laying on your heart a particular need at Deane? Supporting outreach ministry in the parish? Funding Messy Church? Helping the poor and needy? Keeping our magnificent mediaeval building in good condition... very often this involves the less 'glamorous' (but just as pleasing to God) projects such as work on the masonry? There is an ongoing list of jobs related to the building that need funding (speak to Lee Higson for more details).

Friends of Deane Churchyard - Are you able to support the maintenance of the second largest churchyard in the British Isles? These days there is very little (hardly any actually!) income for the upkeep of the churchyard and we receive no financial support from any other organisation. We are currently looking at ways to address this huge challenge. Could you help with this? One substantial legacy could see the churchyard well maintained for years to come.

2. Giving in practical ways

Giving is not just about giving financially, you can also give time and talents to help grow God's Kingdom here in Deane. The New Testament challenges us to be generous in every aspect of our lives. This includes offering hospitality, giving our time and using our skills in the service of others. This might be within Deane Parish Church, practically supporting our ministry, or in our homes, our workplace and communities - generous giving of time well beyond our families and friends.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

As well as looking at our use of money, it is worth looking at our diary to see what it says about our priorities. Where do we allocate most time and how does that fit with Christ's priorities? (Matthew 22:37-39)

The time given by volunteers as they use their gifts is what helps Deane to keep growing as people step out and use their gifts in new ways to serve God. Some opportunities

to serve are very public, others are behind the scenes. Sometimes we need people to commit to a regular time



each week, sometimes it is less regular. Often we just need people we know we can call on when a need arises.

Please prayerfully consider what extra time you could offer to Deane. If you are aware of a particular gift and way it can be used, do let us know. For most of us it will mean us working out together how your gift and

time can be best applied – often with surprising conclusions!

3. Other ways of raising money for Deane Church

Easyfundraising – you can raise money when you shop online through easyfundraising. It is very simple. Let's say you want to buy a book from Amazon. Instead of going to amazon.co.uk, you go to easyfundraising.or.uk first – or you can use the easyfundraising toolbar. You click from the easyfundraising website through to Amazon to make your purchase. The price of the book is exactly the same as if you'd visited Amazon directly. After you have bought the book, Amazon will make a donation to your cause as a thank you for shopping with them. Easyfundraising collect these donations which they pass on to us, and it costs nothing!

It's not just Amazon, there are thousands of retailers who participate in the scheme, including ebay, Argos, Tesco, Sainsbury's, thetrainline.com, play.com. It is a really simple way of raising money for Deane Church every time you shop online.

Recycle4charity – we collect old mobile phones and printer ink cartridges which we then pass on to be recycled through a charity called recycle4charity. Every ink cartridge recycled raises £1. Some phones can raise up to £70. There are recycling boxes at the back of church, in Deane Church Shop and in Deane Church Office, or you can use the envelopes available in church.



How do I make sure that I give most effectively?

Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer then making sure that you Gift Aid your giving is one of the best ways of ensuring that you give effectively. If you Gift Aid your donation we can reclaim the basic rate tax (20%) that you pay, so that we get that amount instead of HM Revenue and Customs. It doesn't cost you anything, but increases the value of your gift.

For your gift to qualify for Gift Aid you must pay UK Income tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount of tax that will be reclaimed on all your charitable donations (including churches and Community

Amateur Sports Clubs) during that tax year (6 April – 5 April). Other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. Gift Aid can be claimed on donations made at any point in a given tax year provided you pay sufficient Income/Capital Gains tax during that tax year, even if the gifts were made before you started or after you ceased to pay tax.

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If you pay tax at the higher or additional rate and you want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue & Customs to adjust your tax code. We cannot do this on your behalf.

To Gift Aid your donation you need to sign a declaration form, which allows us to reclaim the tax and these are available at the church Welcome Desk.

Legacies

The Bible is clear that any money or other material things we have are not actually ours! They are on loan to us from God and he calls us to be good stewards of what he gives us as we journey through this life.

In your Last Will and Testament you may have left money and other estate to family members and to your favourite charity but ***how much of God's***



money have you left to God's work at your church? How many of us have actually thought about it, let alone done something about it? Making changes to beneficiaries and bequests in a will can be done by making a codicile (a small change to a will) or by making a new will. Either way, you need to get on and do it. *Don't assume that family members will remember or follow wishes expressed by you verbally.*

A legacy can make a huge difference to Gospel ministry at Deane and make ***an eternal difference*** in the lives of a great many people. Now that is a legacy worth leaving!

We welcome gifts in Wills, however large or small. These gifts help to make a real difference to the future work of Deane Church. Because we value legacies left to us, we've developed a policy on how we will use any gifts left to us in this way. We want you to know that we will use gifts left in a will for special

projects, and not just for regular upkeep and maintenance, but also that we will respect any particular wishes and interests that you have in the way we use the money left to us.

If you'd like to talk to somebody about leaving a legacy to Deane Church in your will, or perhaps about making a gift in memoriam, then please speak to Les Kilsby, our Church Treasurer, or to Beccy Clark our Church Administrator on 01204 659637 or deanechurchoffice@btinternet.com

Looking forward

Keeping pace with inflation is important if we are to keep the lights on at Deane, so giving needs to be increasing year on year. We are also keen to make the church building more user-friendly through the addition of wheelchair accessible toilet facilities and a better kitchen.

Apart from the parish share payment, which we largely get back in the form of clergy staffing, we give very little money to Gospel ministry beyond the parish. At the time of writing Deane Church does not financially help any overseas mission worker or project on a regular basis. We need to raise our global vision for God's Kingdom work.



Our area is crying out for a Christians Against Poverty (www.cap.uk/org) centre to help people get out of crippling debt and poverty. We could set this up in the Church Centre but it would need funds to employ someone part-time and pay towards the cost of CAP who handle all the paperwork, negotiate with companies who are owed money etc - very often getting debts reduced or even completely written off.

More information

Members of our Finance Committee would be happy to talk with you about giving and other finance matters. Jane Hampson (Chair) and Les Kilsby (Treasurer) are the best people to contact in the first instance. You can contact them through the Church Office.

If you would like to set up a standing order, to make a Gift Aid declaration, or to request a set of weekly giving envelopes there are copies of the relevant forms available on the welcome desk.

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Deane Parish Church



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