



Questions & Answers

Can I still give regularly to the two St James using the collection plate on Sunday?

Yes, and if that is what is most convenient for you please give using a blue envelope which ensures that tax can be re-claimed where appropriate.

How easy is it for me to change the amount I give each month if I need to?

Very easy, simply amend your standing order and let our Giving Secretary know using one of the envelopes available in church.

Who knows that I am giving and how much I am giving?

Only the Giving Secretary has this information. Staff members do not receive any information about individual givers.

Can I use the gift-aid scheme for regular giving and one off gifts?

Yes. As long as you are a UK tax payer you can give using the gift-aid scheme. Once you have registered as a gift-aid giver you do not have to do so again.

What about giving to other organisations and charities?

It is important that each of us prays regularly about how God is asking us to give. As a general principle it may be worth setting our tithing to the local church as the priority and then giving to other organisations once our planned Christian giving to the local church is prayerfully set.

For further information

St James Church Office
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GIVING BACK TO GOD

Planned Christian Giving at St James

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously"

2 Corinthians 9:6

Faith and money

Gratitude

At the two St James we believe that the Bible makes it clear that everything we have is a gift from God. God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them; he gave us life and he gave us forgiveness and grace in Jesus Christ. It is often said that the Christian life is a life of grateful response to the overwhelming generosity and goodness of God.

Generosity

As we seek to live lives devoted to Christ we discover more and more of his faithfulness. God is incredibly generous to us. In His word God calls each of us to be generous. As the Holy Spirit makes us more and more like Jesus we are able to reflect Christ's love and generosity to others.

Money

We can be generous with our time, our talents and our love for one another. We can also be generous with our money. Jesus spoke and taught about money often because he knew how easily it can become a stumbling block for us. He calls us to invest wholeheartedly in His kingdom. As a church family we believe in being increasingly generous with all that we have including our money.



Starting to give

For many, regular giving is a new experience.

It can be difficult to start regular giving because it is not something we are accustomed to. So where should we start? In God's word we see that there is a principle of tithing to which we can aspire. Giving at least 10% of our income to God is the biblical goal of every Christian. Some feel they need to work towards tithing in stages whilst others start tithing straight away. The important thing is to start by praying about what God may be encouraging us to give and then to do so in a spirit of generosity and thanksgiving. Those who are regularly tithing will speak of a sense of freedom and blessing almost from the moment they began. What seemed hard to start quickly becomes a joy, because as we give to God so He gives back to us in extraordinary ways. There is information about how to start your planned Christian giving included with this leaflet and available from the Church Office.



Reviewing our giving

Many members of the family of the two St James have been giving regularly for many years. Each year we take the opportunity to focus on our vision as a church and on God's call upon us to give. We are passionate about seeing this local church grow and to reach many more people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We know that this requires sacrifice in many areas of our lives including our giving. It is at these times that we can review our existing giving commitments and pray about how God may be asking us to give even more generously to the growing ministry of this local church. At other times it may be that, because of changing circumstances, we sense God's grace and freedom to give less until we are in a position to increase our giving again.



Ways to give

There are many ways to give to the work of the two St James but perhaps the simplest and most efficient is to set up a monthly standing order and to register for Gift Aid if appropriate. A monthly standing order helps us plan and budget with a greater degree of certainty for the coming year of ministry activity. Registering for Gift Aid (which anyone can do if they are a UK tax payer) means that your giving is supplemented by the tax rebates available from the Inland Revenue. These rebates are claimed direct from the revenue by the St James Giving Secretary. Other ways of giving include regular quarterly or annual gifts or even one-off gifts in addition to regular monthly giving, as we sense God prompting us. You can also make provision for the next generation by adding a legacy to your will. There is a leaflet about how to do this available from the Church Office.



What are we giving to?

Our giving funds the ministry of this local church. We receive no other income from any other source. We are completely dependent on the generosity of each member of the St James church family. Ministry costs inevitably range from staff costs, to costs of running our buildings and every day ministry funding. But we also believe that as a local church we, too, want to cultivate a spirit of increasing generosity. So as a church we tithe all our income and give to a range of mission organisations in the UK and overseas. You can find out more about our mission giving from the Mission leaflets available in the Saint James Centre. We also give substantially to the wider ministry of the Diocese through the Diocesan parish share system. As we continue to grow as a church and as we seek to reach more and more people for Christ our costs continue to rise. We work very hard to minimise our ministry costs not least through the wonderful ways in which so many people in the church family serve with their gifts in every ministry area. You can see some of the key financial details about our current budget year in the leaflet enclosed in this brochure or just ask at the Church Office.