

WHY GIVE?

As a Baptist church we are financially independent, which means that all the money needed for the day to day life of the church comes from within the church itself. We rely completely on the generous giving of those who are part of our church family.

The Bible contains countless examples of the people of God giving from what they have for God's purposes. In the Old Testament, this often takes the form of tithes, which were used to care for the poorest among them and also support the ministry of the priests. (e.g. [Deuteronomy 14:22-29](#)) At special times of year, the people would bring additional offerings from their fields so that together they could celebrate God's goodness and blessing. (e.g. [Numbers ch.29](#))

In the New Testament, the new churches kept up with their responsibility to look after the poor (e.g. [Acts 4:34-35](#)), as well as supporting other churches (e.g. [1 Corinthians 16:1-2](#)) and those who had dedicated themselves to full-time 'ministry'. (e.g. [Philippians 4:16](#)) Again, this was done out of a recognition of God's goodness to them and a desire to see more people come to know God and experience His goodness for themselves.

When Jesus talks about giving He does so with the expectation that we already give. He doesn't explicitly command us to give, because He assumes this is something that followers of God do anyway. Instead, He

instructs us about the attitude we should have when we give - not boastfully or with a proud heart, but privately and sacrificially with a heart of compassion. ([Matthew 6:1-4](#); [Luke 21:1-4](#))

There is no stipulation on how much you should give. Don't be uncomfortable if you earn little and therefore don't have much money to give. The apostle Paul suggests that all should give '...what they have decided in their heart to give'. ([2 Corinthians 9:7](#)) In other words, it's between us and God. The starting point of the Old Testament tithes is 10% of what we have, but in some rather extreme examples Jesus asks some to give 100%! The amount is not as important as the attitude with which we give. We're instructed to give '...not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver'. ([2 Corinthians 9:7](#))

HOW WILL MY MONEY BE USED?

Money given to the church helps us to pay for a number of different things, including:

- The hire of the school and other church's rooms, providing us with a space we can use for worship and other activities.
- Paying our Minister a stipend, which releases him to serve the church full-time.
- Providing material for our children's work and small groups as we help people to come to faith and grow in it.

- Supporting local mission and outreach initiatives e.g. 'The Need Project' and 'IMPACT'.
- Giving to the work of the Baptist Union 'Home Mission' to help Baptist churches and individuals to reach their mission potential and bring the love of God to their communities.
- Supporting mission around the world through organisations like BMS World Mission, who are involved in all kinds of work including: health; development; evangelism; church-planting; education and much more.
- Paying for administration costs such as insurance, license fees and so on.

HOW CAN I GIVE?

Weekly Offering

As part of our worship service, Sunday Gathering' we take up an offering, and many people choose to give to the church by putting cash or a cheque in the offering bag.

If you want to give us a cheque, please make it payable to 'Vale Community Church'.

If you are a UK tax-payer, don't forget that we may be able to claim Gift Aid back on top of your donation. See the last page for details of what you need to do.

Standing Order

We are grateful for your giving in whatever

form. However, for many people the best way to give is to consider prayerfully how much they should give each month and then set up a regular Standing Order from their bank account.

Unlike a Direct Debit, you are in charge of your Standing Orders - you can change or cancel them at any time. It also really helps with church budgeting if our Treasurer has a rough idea of how much money will be given each month and regular Standing Orders enables this to happen.

Our church Bank Account details are on the back of this leaflet.

LEGACIES

A large number of churches around the country have benefitted from legacies left by some of their members when they passed away. They have enabled churches to continue to pay for full-time ministers, as well as allowing them to think about the bigger picture as they seek to see more people in their communities and our world come to know Jesus and His kingdom.

We know that this is an emotive issue, but if you would like more information about legacies (with no obligation at all), or would like any more information about giving in general, please speak, in confidence, to our Minister.

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If you are a UK tax-payer, the church can claim an additional 25% on top of what you give, with no additional cost to you. Please ask for a Gift Aid Declaration Form, and if giving as part of the fortnightly offering, put your cash or cheque in one of the Gift Aid envelopes available from our

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Account No: 65618563

Sort Code: 08-92-99

For more information about giving, please speak to our Minister, Steve Gaunt or Treasurer, Trevor Ogden .

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A GUIDE TO GIVING



Vale Community Church
...knowing God...loving others...sharing Jesus

www.valecc.org.uk