

## How much should I give?

Only you can answer that one! How much to give is a personal decision. The important thing is that we do actually think about what to give. Perhaps these questions might help your thinking.

- Is my giving realistic when I consider the financial needs of the church?
- Is my giving a priority for my expenditure or is it usually what is left at the end of the week?
- Should I be thinking of giving in terms of a proportion of my income rather than just an amount? This is a big step to take, but it is the Biblical principle of giving.
- Does what I give really reflect me – my life, my blessings, my priorities, my lifestyle? Is there anything of me in what I give?

Our advice is to give a gift you feel happy with now, not something you might resent or begrudge. The most important thing as you join the scheme is to give that gift regularly through your envelope.

Each year we encourage all church members to review their giving. So start by giving something regularly and let your giving grow from there.



## Should all my giving go to the church?

All Charities do fabulous work and we hope you do give to other charities apart from the church. The Church of England recommendation is half of our giving to the local church and half to other charities and worthwhile causes.

Your church is a special place; you come to worship, to learn about Jesus and grow in your faith. We belong to a wider group of churches in the Diocese and we help support each other in ministry costs through the parish share. So we think that giving to the local church should be the first call on your giving, just as worship each Sunday should be the first call on our time each week.

Once again, thank you for your support for the ministry here, not only in financial terms, but your time and your prayer.

Your contribution makes a difference and we thank you wholeheartedly.

Form and further details are available from:

**Stewardship Recorder  
Church Office (Gift Aid)  
Church Lane  
Cranleigh  
Surrey  
GU6 8AR**

v 09/2012



**St Nicolas Church**  
Cranleigh

**PLANNED GIVING**

**BY**

**WEEKLY  
ENVELOPES**

## So what is Planned Giving

You have probably seen lots of people putting an envelope on the collection plate – that is planned giving. We give you a pack of our special church envelopes, one for each week of the year. You decide what you want to give, pop it into the envelope each week and put it on the collection plate – simple as that!

If you're able to and choose to sign one of our Gift Aid declarations, we'll treat all of the amounts you give in your envelopes as Gift Aid donations and claim the tax back without you having to fill in a blue envelope each week.

- Planned giving helps you decide what to give to the Church each week
- It helps you to be regular in your giving. In the Sunday morning rush it is easy to forget.
- It helps us to give what is right for us to give; not what is left over at the end of the weekend
- It helps you plan your giving instead of being caught out when the plate comes round!
- If you're able to, it helps us make your donation go further by enabling us to claim tax back on your donations without you having to fill in a blue envelope each week or find a working pen !

## Your Questions Answered

### ***Will anyone know what I give each week?***

The envelopes are numbered and not named. The cashier who opens them will not know who uses which envelope number. Only the Stewardship Recorder knows which envelope belongs to which person. This information is only used to reclaim tax under the Gift Aid scheme and to ensure you receive a set of new envelopes in good time when you're running low.

### ***So what is Gift Aid?***

Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows charities to claim back the tax you have already paid on the money you give to the church.

For every £5 you give, the church can claim £1.25 extra – absolutely free! It cost you nothing for us to claim and all you have to do is to sign a declaration. More details are available on the Gift Aid leaflet available at the back of the church or the office overleaf.

### ***Can I stop taking envelopes?***

Of course. Your situation might change, you might move away or change your giving to be automatically transferred by standing order.

Simply ask the Stewardship Recorder and your name will be taken off the list. Any unused envelopes should be returned to the Stewardship Recorder to be reissued.

## *continued*

### ***I do not come every week – so what I do?***

Lots of people ask this question! Envelopes are about planned giving, deciding to give an amount each week. So if you cannot be in church simply put the usual gift for God's work in this church into the envelope for the week and then bring that and any other envelopes next time you are in church. It really is not a problem if you put extra envelopes in one Sunday!

### ***Can I plan my giving by standing order?***

Certainly – in fact it really helps the treasurer if people do give by standing order. A Standing Order form is available if you decide to plan your giving this way. You're not limited to either scheme, some people choose to run both with a fixed amount taken via standing order and then "topped up" with weekly envelope. The choice is entirely yours.

