st peter
in eastgate
in carlton

Giving



Responding to our Generous God

We believe in a generous God who has blessed us with "every spiritual blessing in Christ" (Ephesians 1.3).

Though he was rich beyond all splendour, Jesus became poor, so that we might become rich. He took the form of a servant, to serve us. Through him we've been forgiven, clothed in his righteousness, given the Holy Spirit, and promised a wonderful future.

As Christians, we want our lives to be shaped by these realities. As the hymn goes:

> ***"Love so amazing, so divine,***
> ***Demands my soul, my life, my all.***

Generosity is a natural response when we experience the generosity of God in Jesus Christ. Christians are those who cheerfully give: their time, their resources, and their money.

I hope that this booklet will help you as you consider your own financial giving. Our giving is not only part of our worship, it's also an opportunity to invest in something bigger than ourselves and which will last forever, the Kingdom of God.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and for taking time to consider your giving to the mission and ministry of St Peter's. The financial support of our church is entirely dependent upon your generous, sacrificial and cheerful giving.



Robbie Strachan
Vicar, St Peter in Eastgate & Carlton

Thinking about giving

You're valuable, whatever you give
Your value in the church is determined not by how much you give, but by how much has been given for you. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, he gave his one and only Son…" That tells you that you are infinitely precious, even if you feel you can give very little. We shouldn't give to try to increase our worth in the sight of God, ourselves or others.

The right reason to give
That same truth tells us what *should* motivate us to give. Our giving should be in grateful response to the extraordinarily generous love we've been shown by God through Jesus and out of a desire to worship him and see his kingdom grow. As we increasingly understand and believe that God the Father was willing to give us his Son and that Jesus was willing to give us his life on the cross, we will find our hands opening in generosity, gratitude and love. We will want to give back to the one who has given us more than we could ever repay.

> ***"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.***
>
> 2 Corinthians 9.7

Needs and priorities
The Bible describes Christians giving to support one another's needs in the local church (Acts 2.45), organising collections for Christians in poverty (1 Corinthians 16.1), and supporting gospel work, especially the Bible teaching ministry of the local church (1 Timothy 5.17). Of course Christians give to all sorts of other worthwhile causes, and as a church, we give away a proportion of our income to others, but there will always be a need to support the mission and ministry of St Peter's.

Giving is good for us

Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21) This is insightful, because it works in two ways. Firstly, Jesus diagnoses our hearts – you can tell what someone loves and values by looking at where their money is invested. But, secondly, it also helps us know *how* to redirect the desires of our hearts. If, as followers of Jesus, we want to love and value Him more, then a powerful way to do that is to consciously invest in his kingdom. By redirecting our hearts in this practical way, the things of this world will loose their grip on us, and we will be more and more captured by the things of eternity and the glory of Jesus. So, give what you want to give. But also consider giving what you *want* to want to give.

> ***Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’***
>
> Acts 20.35



Deciding how much to give

Planned: Giving of the first fruits
The Bible encourages us to give of our 'first fruits' – that is, the early produce from the harvest, not whatever's left over at the end (Proverbs 3:9). This means that our giving to God should be a planned priority when budgeting, not an afterthought. It's also an expression of trust that he will provide all we need.

Proportionate: Should I tithe?
Tithing is the Old Testament principle of giving 10% of our income to the church (Malachi 3:6–12, Leviticus 27:30), which Jesus affirmed in the New Testament (Luke 11:42). It's a good starting point, but Christians are told to be generous and to give "in keeping with your income" (1 Corinthians 16:2). So we shouldn't allow the principle of tithing to restrict our giving – for some, generosity will mean giving more than a tithe. Nor should we be prescriptive – for some, it may be appropriate to give less than 10%. Instead, we should each ask ourselves, 'What does sacrificial generosity look like for me?'

Private: Between you and God
Jesus said, "when you give... do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret" (Matthew 6:3–4). This helps protect our hearts from pride or seeking people's praise. So keep your giving between you and God (and your spouse, if you're married). For the same reason, at St Peter's, the only people who know who gives are those who need to know for administrative purposes (e.g. the Church Treasurer). If you would prefer not even them to know, the Parish Giving Scheme (see below) offers an option for your giving to remain entirely anonymous to St Peter's.

Your response

Not giving yet?
We want everyone at St Peter's to share in God's grace of giving, so if you consider St Peter's your church, then we urge you to begin to give in a planned and regular way. Even a small amount is worthwhile in God's economy (Mark 12.43).

Review your giving
If you are already giving regularly, thank you! We hope this booklet has reminded you why you give. It's good practice to review your giving at least annually, and to prayerfully consider what God is leading you to give. For some, financial pressures might mean you need to give less. Others will have capacity to increase their giving. Please remember that as inflation and cost of living increases, £10 in the collection plate or an unchanged standing order is worth less each year in real terms.

Giving tax efficiently
If you are a UK tax payer, we can reclaim 25p for every £1 that you give from HMRC. This includes cash and contactless donations. Gift Aid Declaration forms are available at the back of church.

Leaving a legacy
Legacies have had a transformative impact on the ministry of our church, both at Eastgate and Carlton. If you think that it might be appropriate to include St Peter's as one of the beneficiaries of your estate, please do so when writing your will. If you would like to discuss this in confidence, please contact the Church Treasurer in the first instance: **treasurer@stpeterineastgate.org.uk**.

How can I give?

Regular giving
It is a great help to have a high proportion of our income coming from reliable, predictable regular giving, as this helps us to plan well. The main way we encourage you to do this is through the Parish Giving Scheme.

Parish Giving Scheme
The Parish Giving Scheme is a national church initiative which hugely eases the administration of donations for us. It is secure, confidential and easy to use, and the entirety of your gift comes to St Peter's.

Either pick up a PGS pack from the back of church, visit **parishgiving.org.uk**, or give them a ring on 0333 002 1271. They will take down all the information they need to complete a Direct Debit instruction for you, including details for Gift Aid. You will need one of these codes to complete your gift:

- Eastgate PGS code: 210621084
- Carlton PGS code: 210621714

Other ways to give
You can still give by standing order if you wish (by setting it up online or writing to your bank). One-off gifts can be made through the Parish Giving Scheme, by bank transfer, by cheques made payable to 'St Peter in Eastgate Church', or by cash in the collection plate. We also have a contactless card reader in the church building.

Please email the Giving Secretary for bank details: **giving@stpeterineastgate.org.uk**.

Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name … Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand

1 Chronicles 29.13-14

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