

Giving at Christ Church

*'Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory
and the majesty and the splendour,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.
Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.'*

1 Chronicles 29v11

THE JOY OF GIVING

There are some subjects we find very hard to talk about. Death is one of them. We hide death away, cloaked in language of 'passing away' or 'moving on' because it's a reality we would rather not be confronted with. We feel uncomfortable that death controls us, rather than us controlling death.

Perhaps that's understandable with death – but have you ever stopped to wonder why we find it so hard to talk about money? Questions such as “How much do you earn?” or “How much do you have in savings?” aren't the topic of polite conversation. Even TV adverts are picking up on the fact that we don't talk about money. So, why is that? Might there be a lurking discomfort that our money controls us, rather than us controlling our money? Could it be that our relationship with money, like our relationship with other 'unmentionables' such as sex and death, leaves us unnerved by the power it has on us?

Jesus tells us that we're right to be concerned. He famously said, **“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”** (Matt 6v21). The warning is that money can not only control us, but it will also shape our character and desires. As we store up treasures for ourselves, so we are left longing for yet more treasures. That was John D. Rockefeller's experience. He was one of the richest people the world has known, and he was once asked “How much money is enough?” His answer, “Just a bit more”.

But Jesus' words also present us with a wonderful opportunity. For those of us who want our hearts to change so that we care more about God's kingdom than our own kingdoms, our money can serve us. Just as when we pray, we are reminded that we aren't ultimately in control of our lives, so when we give money to God's work, we find our desires and longings change. It's one of the extraordinary ways that God uses to grow us as followers of Jesus and to prepare us for eternity.

So please don't respond to this booklet out of guilt or a misguided duty. Instead, can I encourage you to pray, to thank God for all that he has given you, and to ask him to use this booklet to change your heart to be more like his. For, **“where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”**

God bless, Jon Tuckwell (Vicar)



OVERVIEW OF CHURCH FINANCES

Summary of financial position

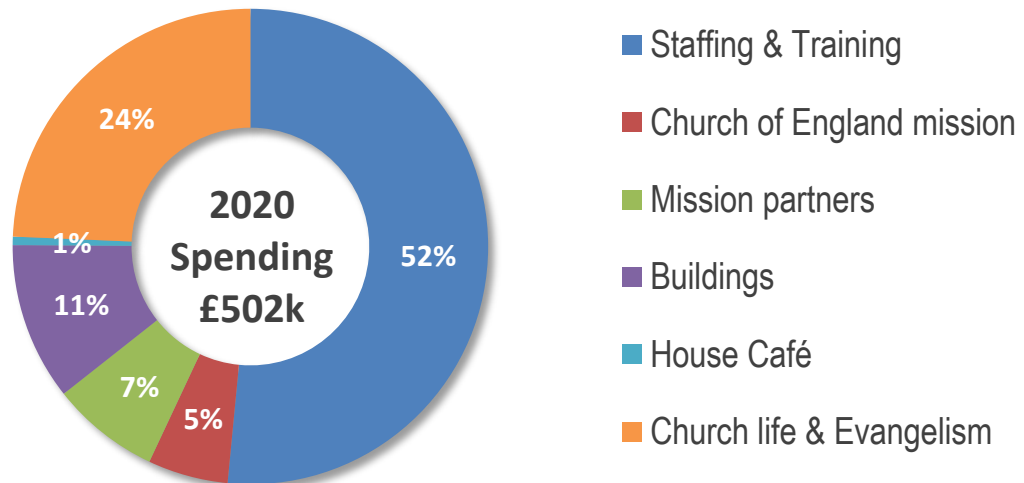
- We are rejoicing in the way that God continues to provide for the ministry here at Christ Church Cockfosters for our whole church family and beyond.
- After careful consideration and prayer, the Church Council has approved spending plans for 2020 that would have a shortfall of £49,000 based upon current giving.
- About 80% of our total income comes from generous giving from our Church family, and we are praying for increased donations from all of us to cover this shortfall.
- We are asking the whole church family to pray and to ask God how he might have you financially support the ministry here at Christ Church.

Significant upcoming budget changes

- The Church Council has agreed to appoint a Youth Minister to head up our Pathfinders (10-14s) and Koinonia (14-18s) ministries.
- You will also be aware that plans are taking shape to redevelop our church building to improve our ability to welcome and disciple people and to equip the building for gospel ministry for decades to come. Separate information is available on this project, but we are likely to be making a separate appeal for funds for this project later in the year.



Where the money is spent:



Further details:

- **Staffing costs:** These include salaries, NI contributions, accommodation, training and pension costs.
- **Buildings costs:** These include the cost of utilities, insurance, consumables, repairs and maintenance for Church House and our church building.
- **Church life:** This includes music, children and youth work resources, homegroup materials, office stationery, postage, photocopies, IT, evangelism events, welcome lunches, publicity... and much more.
- **Mission Partners:** We aim to give away around 10% of our voluntary income to help fund gospel work elsewhere in the UK and overseas. Our Mission Action Group oversees this area of church life.

If further clarifications would be helpful, please send questions to our treasurer:

Mike Slevin

treasurer@cockfosters.church



SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much should I give?

2 Corinthians 9v7 encourages us with these words “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.”

In the Old Testament God’s people, the Israelites, were required to give a tithe of 10% of all their produce. Whilst many Christians still find this a helpful guideline, tithing isn’t a New Testament principle because instead, followers of Jesus are encouraged to freely give from what God has given to them. There are no set percentages, the Bible simply encourages us to be generous, cheerful and planned in our giving.

Can I give a one-off donation rather than regular giving?

One-off donations to help meet the budget shortfall would be very welcome. However, regular giving is particularly helpful as it allows us to plan forwards for ongoing costs.

Do I need to complete this standing order form, or can I do it online?

Many will find it easier to complete or adjust standing orders directly with their bank, but it would help us if you could let us know of any changes by completing the relevant section of the form.

What if I want to keep my giving the same or need to decrease it ?

Because our individual financial circumstances are constantly changing it is wise to have a regular review of our giving. For some this review will mean keeping it the same or prayerfully deciding it is best to reduce their giving. Do let us know of any changes so we can plan accordingly.

What if I am a basic rate taxpayer?

Even if you have done so in the past, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration as that allows the Church Council to recover the tax you have paid on the gift.

What if I am a higher rate taxpayer?

Even if you have done so in the past, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration and remember that you can reclaim additional tax via your tax return.

What is our policy on reserves?

We must maintain some reserves as a buffer against unforeseen costs or changes in giving. The Church Council aims to have at least 2 months running costs in reserve.

Who sees information about giving?

The overall finances of the church are discussed regularly by the Church Council but because the Bible advises us to keep our giving private, the number of people who see specific information about giving is kept to an absolute minimum. Generally this is only the Treasurer, Mike Slevin, and our Financial Administrator, Claire Hammer.

What is the Christ Church Trust?

This is a charity set up to support the ministry at Christ Church Cockfosters. The Trust owns a house which is made available to Christ Church to house staff at a very reduced rent. The Inman family (Tom Inman is our Children & Families' Minister) currently live in the house.

How do I find out more about leaving a legacy to Christ Church?

Over the years we have been very blessed to receive a number of legacies. Our treasurer, Mike (treasurer@cockfosters.church), would happily provide details about how to do this and the tax advantages for your family in you leaving a charitable bequest.

GIVING RESPONSE FORM

Name (CAPITALS).....

☐ I would like to commit to new regular giving of £.....per month

☐ I would like to change my giving from £..... per
month/quarter/year to £..... per month/quarter/year

☐ I would like to make a one-off gift of £.....

Please make cheques payable to "Christ Church Cockfosters" and the Standing Order and Gift Aid declarations as appropriate.

☐ Tick here if you will make changes to your standing order online yourself

☐ Tick here if you want to keep your regular giving the same

Standing Order Declaration

To the Manager, Bank plc

Address

Please pay the account of:

Christ Church Cockfosters,
CAF Bank Ltd,
PO Box 289, West Malling,
Kent, ME19 4TA
Account Number 0001 1048
Sort Code: 40-52-40

The sum of: £..... (figures) (words) on
the day of 20..... and on the same day in each
succeeding month / quarter / year. This cancels any previous instruction in
favour of Christ Church Cockfosters.

My Account No. My Bank Sort Code

Signature Date

Address

Please return this form to the church office or bring it to church on Sunday 15th March

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Please complete this form if you are a taxpayer.

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of this declaration and in the past four years.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax for the current tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax claimed on all donations made in the tax year, otherwise I will be responsible to pay any difference.

I understand that Christ Church Cockfosters will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

I am willing for this information to be stored on computer.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

..... Post Code.....

Signature Date

Please notify the church if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Please return this form to the church office or bring it to church on Sunday 15th March



'Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also'
Matthew 6v21

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Trent, Christ Church Cockfosters represents the congregation at Christ Church Cockfosters and is a Registered Charity (1134144)

The Christ Church Trust is also a Registered Charity (298004)