

## My Pledge

Name.....  
Yes, I will pray for our giving needs.  
My planned giving for 2020 will be .....  
My one-off gift for 2020 will be .....

## Ways to give

**Standing Order Form:** available at the back of church, from the office or download from the church website. Return it to the church office marked Treasurer-Confidential.

**Regular or one-off electronic transfer from your bank:** to Stoke Poges PCC, CAF Bank 40-52-40 A/C 00030354 .

**Yellow envelopes:** available at the back of St Andrew's and in the pews at St Giles'. Adding your details enables us to collect Gift Aid on your donation. Please make cheques payable to "Stoke Poges PCC".

**Make a bequest.** Please contact the church office if you would like to discuss this. Use **Easyfundraising** when you shop online.

Thank you

for any contribution you are able to make.

## FAQ's

### Why is a standing order helpful?

Paying by standing order will help you to give regularly and from the first of your income. It will also help our treasurer to manage the church's cash flow and claim back Gift Aid from the government (if you pay tax). It ensures that your giving to God gets to church even when you can't.

### How do I change an existing Standing Order ?

You may contact your bank and ask them to make the changes, or you can fill in a new form.

### I feel embarrassed if I don't put anything in the offering bag!

There is no need to feel embarrassed. The sides-people do understand and we will be offering cards which you can place in the offering bag or plate instead.

### Do I have to tell anyone who might contact me how much I am giving?

No, the details are confidential, and only recorded for tax purposes.

### I'd rather just put something in the bag each week.

If you feel strongly about giving in this way, we are happy to receive your offering, but would appreciate knowing your pledge for the year to help our planning.

[www.stokepogeschurch.org](http://www.stokepogeschurch.org)

# Giving in 2020

## Community = Mission

**Our Vision** is to take the greatest commandments to **Love God, Love People** most seriously.

To do that ...

**we Value** people, which means that we, as a church community, strive to be: Christ-like,

relational,  
trustworthy  
and prayerful

therefore **in Mission**

- we worship together as one church with two worship centres, inviting all to come and journey with us
- we grow together in fellowship & faith by sharing our lives with one another, being disciplined in small groups and by reaching out to our local community in evangelism and acts of love
- we seek to be a blessing to all we meet in our daily lives through serving, listening and walk alongside people sharing God's grace generously
- we provide places of meeting, community and contemplation through both our buildings at St Giles, and St Andrews

*"Keep this in mind: if you plant sparingly you will reap sparingly, and if you plant bountifully, you will reap bountifully. You must give according to what you have inwardly decided - not sadly, not reluctantly, for God loves a giver who gives cheerfully."*  
2 Corinthians 9 v 6



## What does the Bible say about giving?

The New Testament doesn't give exact directions as to how much Christians are to give to the Lord's work; we are told to give GENEROUSLY and with JOY (2 Corinthians 9.7). However, the Old Testament standard is to give a tithe (10%) to God and the New Testament appears to assume this standard of giving and encourages people to give even more!

## What should I give?

Some people, because of their present financial circumstances, cannot give 10% of our net income (after tax). So the question is "What can I give?" The temptation may be to shrug our shoulders and give from what happens to be in our pocket on a Sunday or give from what is left over at the end of the month. **We do not honour God by giving Him our leftovers!**

I want to suggest two essentials for everyone to pray about and act upon as they seek to honour God and support the work of the church.

**Give to God first** **Give to God first:** as an act of honouring and obeying Him, and trusting Him to supply your needs (if not all your wants!). However much or little we give, it should be the first call on our net income. Whenever we get paid in the month, our giving to God should be debited from our account in the next day or so.

**Give to God in proportion to your income.** If you honestly think that you can only give 2%, then give it with a joyful and generous heart, promising both yourself and God that you will review the situation next year to see if you can increase your giving having experienced God's provision, with a tithe as your goal over a few years.

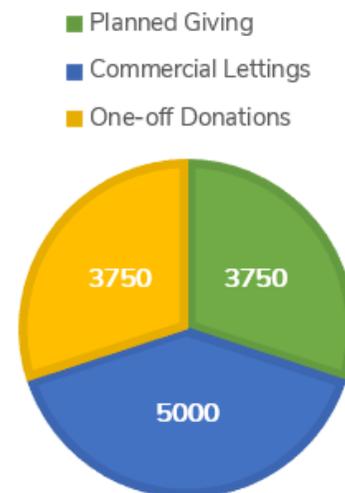
*As a practical point, please consider giving by standing order with Gift Aid. Forms are available in church and from the office. This will help you to give to God regularly and from the first of your income.*

**Give to God in proportion to your income**

## Living out our Mission in 2020 means providing ...

- Mini Lighthouses - unashamedly Christian holiday clubs for children and their families
- Pastoral Care Team - giving a listening ear and prayerful support to our community
- Hospitality to the elderly, isolated and lonely with regular lunches, teas, and events
- Training for a larger ministry team - to deliver all of the above!

This has added an extra £12,500 (10%) to our proposed 2020 budget... so how do we pay for this?



## What should I do next?

I hope you will take this leaflet away and have a read through; then think, pray and get your calculator out...

We would appreciate you returning this 'Pledge Slip' to help the church in its budgeting. It is valuable information for us even if you don't intend to make any changes to the amount you give.

The wonderful thing about generosity is that you do not have to be rich to be generous. As you read, remember it is easy to pray about your giving, and then let fear stop you from responding with the amount that comes to mind. Spend a little time reflecting on that amount, because it is important that what you do give comes from your response to God's call on your finances. God knows we can only give from what we have in our hands ... so He will never compel you to give from what you have not already received.