



*Giving at Ascension...*

**to bring glory to God**



'And now we thank you, our God,  
and praise your glorious name.  
... For all things come from you, and of  
your own have we given you.'  
1 Chronicles 29:13,14

## Giving Life

### How will your money be used?

When we give we give life. Regular committed giving by church members enables the church to carry out God's mission in the world. Church and mission giving gives new life, new vision, new hope.

Our aim at the Ascension is to use all our resources for the glory of God. According to the Bible this happens when when his people live in him and live for him. (Ephesians 1:12, 14, 3:20-21)

That means making Christ known through evangelism and worship, building up God's people through teaching, fellowship and pastoral care, and meeting the needs of the world through mission and prayer. These core aims lie behind all our various activities.

Of course this doesn't mean building an impressive church in worldly terms – which would only bring glory to us. What God wants is spiritual progress: a church filled with men, women, young people and children who know the love of God and are learning to live as wholehearted disciples of Jesus. This is the sort of church community that brings him glory.

To achieve this, we spend money on projects, events, and families work, so that we can bring the good news of life to those who don't yet know it. We resource ministries of the church that help us grow in maturity. We care for our buildings so that they serve mission locally. We are net-givers to our diocese contributing to the wider work of the Church of England.

Finally, we also give away a proportion of our money in support of other ministries that share our values. Currently 10% of our general income is spent this way.

### Looking to the future

We face the challenge to be the representatives of Christ in our area. New people are coming into Westdene as new houses are occupied and the school expands. Our refurbishment work is costly but cannot divert finances away from meeting our general needs which are the concern of this leaflet. We continue to have an annual deficit, however an extra £15/month per head across the parish electoral roll (£12.50 if Gift Aided) would meet our needs fully each year.

### A personal challenge

Though we are small, we rejoice to be part of a church family that gives so generously and cheerfully. Being good stewards requires us to decide what we will do with all that God has entrusted to us.

The Church of England encourages a tithe of at least 5% of income to the church, and 5% to other work that helps build God's kingdom. For what it is worth, I set a personal challenge to increase my giving a little each year as the Lord enables.

Thank you for sharing in this task together – may it be for God's greater glory.

Andy Bousfield

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.  
2 Corinthians 9:7

## Giving Thanks

### 2 Corinthians 8 & 9

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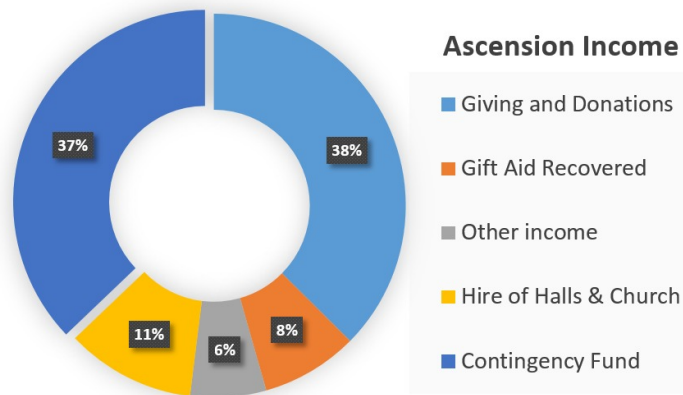
According to 2 Cor 8 and 9, Christian giving is:

- **Motivated by grace** (8:1–9) Christian giving is a response to the gospel of grace. Through the gospel we receive extraordinary blessings from God and generous giving both reflects this gospel and responds to it.
- **In proportion to our means** (8:12–15) We give according to the riches God has given us. Even though her gift was small, Jesus commended the widow because she gave out of her poverty (Luke 21).
- **Carefully supervised** (8:16–24) To guard against any suggestion of financial mismanagement.
- **Willing and cheerful** (9:1–7) Because God loves a cheerful giver who gives gratefully in response to God.
- **A source of spiritual blessing** (9:8–11) God promises that grace will abound to us as we give

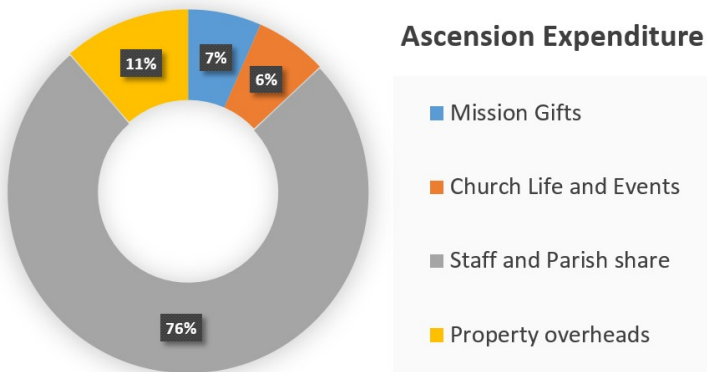
## Giving Ourselves

Christians are challenged to be generous in every aspect of their lives it is not only about giving money, but offering hospitality, giving time and using our skills - in our churches, in our homes, our workplaces and communities. Giving is the outworking of faith.

God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.  
2 Corinthians 9:8



Estimated annual income: £46,000 \*before contingency



Estimated annual expenditure: £73,000

## Giving Regularly

### Why give regularly?

The work of the Ascension is made possible, under God, by income and by giving. We don't receive any funding from the Church of England, we rely on 'planned giving', mainly by standing order, which enables us to budget properly. Any budget shortfall is met by our Parish Contingency Fund which will not last indefinitely. Please do pray that God continues to provide for our needs as a church and for the whole parish.

### Not yet giving? Standing Order or PGS?

We want everyone at the Ascension to share in God's grace of giving, so we would urge you to begin to give. We can provide you with a Standing Order form or a leaflet about the Parish Giving Scheme. Both will enable you to give regularly. The PGS is administered outside the parish so gives the opportunity to give anonymously and have your gifts automatically rise with inflation. Please speak to our Treasurer if you have any questions about giving in these ways.

### Already giving regularly?

Then why not review your giving? It makes sense to do this at least annually and adjust your giving according to changed circumstances. Perhaps this year you would like to make a one off thanksgiving gift to reflect some particular blessing from God.

### Giving elsewhere?

We are glad that many at the Ascension have links with gospel work elsewhere and support those ministries financially. As the Bible teaches Christians that they have a responsibility to support their own (1 Tim 5:17–18), we do hope you will consider making the Ascension a major recipient of your giving. As you will see, we tithe our income to support work elsewhere in the UK and overseas.

### Giving tax-efficiently

If you are a UK taxpayer we urge that you cover your giving with a Gift Aid declaration. This will enable us to claim the tax you have already paid on your gift – amounting to 25p in every pound. Recovered tax is a valuable proportion of the church's overall income.

### Wills and Legacies

Once you've remembered your loved ones in your will, please remember your church family, and help us to develop future ministry. Charitable gifts can reduce the taxable amount of your estate. For more information, we have a legacy leaflet.