

Why should I give?

As members of God's family we belong to Him. All that we are and all that we have are His. Part of our family responsibility is to invest the resources He gives us for His purposes and for His glory. In the Bible God calls us to respond to Him in thankfulness by giving to and through the Church, liberally and joyfully, generously and freely, and in proportion to our ability.

How much should I give?

In the Old Testament, God called His people to give 10% as their tithe. Additional freewill offerings were over and above this. In the New Testament, we are under grace not law, and we should be motivated to give even more freely. How much you give is a matter for prayerful consideration between you and the Lord.

How can I give to Christ Church?

There are three ways you can invest in the Lord's work:

- 1. Giving by Standing Order** Direct transfer from your bank account into the Church's bank account regularises your giving and saves you the trouble of writing cheques or placing cash into the weekly collection. This is our preferred option as it allows us to budget more prudently and base our expenditure on known income. Giving this way can be "gift-aided".
- 2. Joining the Envelope Scheme** If you elect to join this scheme, we will provide 52 envelopes for your weekly cheque or cash giving. This method also enables you to give regularly. Envelopes are simply placed into the collection when you attend. Giving by the envelope scheme is most efficient when it is "gift-aided".
- 3. One-off Gifts** These are greatly appreciated although they are more difficult to budget for since we cannot predict if or when they might be received. We recommend you use this method over and above your regular giving as the Lord blesses you.

Christ Church

Virginia Water



Finance Challenge

2005

*To the Glory of God and the Future of
Virginia Water*

To the Glory of God...

By God's grace and the commitment of many here at Christ Church, much has been achieved in 2004.

- ⊙ **Vision** During the year we held a growth workshop and undertook a major church survey to assess how we might best fulfil our Vision and maximise continued growth through employing further staff, increasing the number of services and enlarging our buildings.
- ⊙ **Evangelism** We arranged several major evangelistic initiatives in the parish during the year, including the big red bus at Carnival Capers, distributing 100s of the children's Jesus video, hosting a Christianity Explored course, a ladies breakfast at Wentworth and a Summer children's holiday club, the first for many years.
- ⊙ **Sunday Clubs & Youth Groups** Our ministry among families and young people included several special events ranging from a visit by Dougie Dug Dug, a Good Friday children's workshop, Summer youth camps and an alternative to Halloween. The appointment of Mark & Megan has given a considerable boost to the youth ministry.
- ⊙ **Mission** Outward giving to mission increased to £32,000 (with a further £27,000 raised for Christian Aid Week in the parish, 18% up on last year). Teams visited Smyrna in India and helped with CRISIS at Christmas. Overall giving increased by 10% on 2003.
- ⊙ **Spirituality & Worship** Attendance increased by 5% (and 10% at 10:30am services). Events included visits by Andrew Maries, Ian White and the Caspian Quartet. More seeker friendly use of PowerPoint and service leaflets were introduced at main services and we began a fortnightly Community for prayer & teaching.
- ⊙ **Church Facilities** The plans to extend the Church and build a new hall with rooms was unanimously approved by the PCC following the endorsement by the church family (74% for the church and 81% for the hall). A minibus was purchased, the church redecorated and a new carpet was laid. A quiet room was also created in the tower.

...and the Future of Virginia Water

We have sought God's guidance for the year ahead and we believe His plans for 2005 are ambitious. So therefore is the budget required to achieve them. Listed below are the significant initiatives planned after prayer and deliberation by the PCC. We need your commitment, your talents and your financial help to turn dreams into reality.

- ⊙ **Investing in People:** Our contribution to the costs of our clergy, pensions and support for other parishes is based in part on our Church membership and ability to give. Our share of the Diocesan parish clergy costs therefore increases by 5% and increased salaries for our hardworking Church Office staff add £6,200. *£10,000 added.*
- ⊙ **Student Pastor:** Under Paul's very capable leadership we are expanding our work among university students. We are now employing Paul for two days a week, as well as covering his student ministry expenses. *£8,750 added.*
- ⊙ **Youth Pastor:** We are clearly blessed having Mark as our full time youth pastor now. Gradually Mark's salary & expenses will be borne from general funds as the youth fund is depleted. *£15,500 added.*
- ⊙ **Mission Giving:** Budgeted outward giving to mission will be £34,000 compared with £32,000 in 2004, an increase of 6%. *£2,000 added.*
- ⊙ **Property Maintenance:** In order to continue to enhance our facilities, as well as improve safety, initiatives in 2005 will include much needed work on the curatage (*£2,500 added*) and new external as well as internal lighting to be paid for from reserves.
- ⊙ **Ministry Support:** We are setting aside additional monies for evangelism, the Sunday Clubs, increased use of the church minibus, ministry training and pastoral care. *£3,900 added.*

These plans, together with a few smaller items, raise our voluntary giving target to £237,000 - an increase of less than 10% on our income in 2004. After prayer and careful reflection the budget was unanimously approved, in faith, by the Parochial Church Council.

...and Your Investment

Christ Church is not funded by the Church of England or outside charity. We rely almost entirely on voluntary giving from the Church family, which is as it should be. We therefore challenge you to increase the amount you give to the Lord's work to and through Christ Church on a regular basis, and make it your first priority.

May the Lord bless you and those you love,

Stephen Sizer

Ulla Joseph

David Wood

Finance Challenge 2005

I would like to increase my investment in God's ministry at Christ Church by:

- Giving by Standing Order
- One-off Gift
- Joining the Envelope Scheme
- Increasing the level of my giving from £..... to £.....
- Please send me further details of the Gift Aid Scheme
- Please advise on how to leave a Legacy to the Church

Signature _____ Date _____

Full Name _____

Address _____

Gift Aid

Charities like Christ Church are able to reclaim basic rate tax (22%) on all donations we receive from you if you are a taxpayer. This equates to approximately 28% of the gift you give us out of your taxed income. So, for every £100 you give us using this scheme, we can claim back another £28 from the government, at no cost to you. If you pay UK tax and have not already done so, please sign and return the form overleaf.

Confidentiality

Only you & our Treasurer, Ron Butler, have access to information about how much and by what means you give.

Turning Vision into Ministry

Please place this in the collection plate or post to Ron Butler (Treasurer), Daphron, 28 Simons Walk, Englefield Green, Surrey TW20 9SQ. Cheques should be payable to 'Virginia Water PCC'.

Thank you for your commitment

Gift Aid Declaration

Name of Charity: Christ Church, Virginia Water
Charity claims reference number: X81307

Details of Donor:

Forename(s) _____

Surname _____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

I want Christ Church, Virginia Water to reclaim tax on all donations I make from the date of this declaration, treating them as Gift Aid Donations.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please supply me with:

- A Bank Standing Order Form
- Planned Giving Envelopes

NOTES:

1. As your declaration covers future donations please notify Christ Church if you change your name or address while the declaration is still in force. You may cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the treasurer.
2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that Christ Church claims on your donations in the tax year (from 6 April 2000, 28p for each £1 you give).
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and/or capital gains equal to the tax that Christ Church reclaims, you should cancel your declaration before and in respect of any donations which exceed your taxed income/capital gains (see note 1).
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your self-assessment tax return.
5. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask Ron Butler, our Treasurer, or contact your local tax office for leaflet IR113 Gift Aid.