

Money
How do we please God with our money?

It's great this morning to be able to start by saying thank you for all that you do as a Christian community here in Geddington/Weekley, and that your giving to God's work here, is appreciated so much! This morning though, I do want to challenge each one of us to think about our giving; what we give and why we give, and how it might become a little more sacrificial. Is my giving really costly, in every sense of the word?

We are each one of us, on a journey. When we commit our lives to Jesus and become a Christian, we begin a journey of discipleship; that is, learning to become more like Jesus, and live as he did. Our giving is part of that journey, and we will all be at different stages of that journey. Jesus gave everything for us, and we need to get to a stage in our relationship with him, where we understand what Christian giving is really about, as we respond to a God who loves us and gives us everything that we need.

I want us to consider a number of things that will help us understand how we can please God with our money.

1 **We please God when we express and reflect God's giving nature**

God is an extravagant giver! You only have to look at the world that he created for us to live in! Look up in the sky at night at the stars. Acts 17 v 24 & 25 says.....
God gives us life and breath and everything else. God gives us each other! Shona & I have been together for around 37 years and I still love and adore her (difficult as that is sometimes). God has blessed us with two children. He has given us most trusted and close friends here in his church. Ultimately he gave everything as we read in John 3v16.

2 **We please God when we give in the light of eternity**

Our 70, 80, 90 years here on earth is not the main thing. It is part of it, and what we do here and the decisions we make, affect eternity and what we do there. On earth, some of us try and plan ahead. In monetary terms we perhaps think about and invest in, savings accounts, stocks and shares, bonds, pensions and property. Clearly these are sensible things to do! However, how much have you invested in eternity? Matt 6 v 19 & 20 says.....
If we don't invest in eternity, who will it affect? If we don't give, and invest in Gods work, who may not be there in heaven with us? That leads us on to the next point.

3 **We please God when we contribute to His work**

God gives to us so that we can enjoy joining in with what he is doing. If we don't give, then God's work can't be done! Do we know what the vision is for Gods work here at St Mary's? Do we as members of the congregation know what God is calling this church to do? If we don't, then ask Rob, (or read the paper in your packs) but there is then less of a likelihood we will give joyfully and generously to make sure it happens. If we do know, then what joy we can share in, knowing that we can do what God is calling us to do. If we don't give, what part of Gods plan for us as a church must we choose not to do?