

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **I give each week on the collection plate, why is this not what you want?**

Obviously if you feel strongly about giving in this way, we are happy to receive your offering, but if we know what our regular weekly/monthly income is going to be, we are better able to plan our budget and expenditure.

## **Why should I pay by standing order rather than the envelope scheme?**

The envelope scheme does suit many, but we feel the standing order method has a number of advantages because:-

- The money goes straight from your account to the church each month including the extra from Gift Aid (at no cost to you).
- It will improve our cash flow considerably.
- It is administered by the Diocese who claim the tax back for us at no cost (in time or money)
- The money collected through envelopes is slower to process and tax is only reclaimed quarterly
- You also won't have to raid your wallet or purse each week, looking for cash.

## **What should I do if I already have a Standing Order?**

You should contact your bank and ask them to make the necessary changes, or you can fill in the pledge form in the 'My Commitment' leaflet and make the comment that this replaces your original instructions.

## **I feel embarrassed by not having anything to put in the offering plate!**

There is no need to feel embarrassed as we hope to have a lot of people on the scheme, and the sidespeople do understand that some of the congregation give in this way.

## **Why should I give to the church when I don't go each week?**

There are many occasions when the church is there for us in time of need, whether we believe it or not. It is part of our community. If the church does not increase its income, then eventually it may not be there for us. It will become lost to the community both present and future.

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

No, your contribution should be made prayerfully, between you and God, and the details are treated in the strictest of confidence and are only recorded by the Treasurer for tax purposes.



# *Planned Giving*

How you can help to support the Church's  
ministry in Geddington and its mission to  
bring more people to know God's Love  
and Grace

*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also [Matthew 6:21]*

## Why do we give?

**Generosity** is a central part of our Christian faith. God calls us to give of our time, money and energy as **part of our discipleship**.

As Christians, we are called to **love one another**, and to **help more people to find fulfilment as part of Christ's family**.

This calling to **ministry and mission needs resources** - and giving is essential to sustain this vital work.

## How can we give?

If you already give to St. Mary Magdalene via envelopes or via a Standing Order paid directly to the Parish, then first - a big **thank you**.

We would now like to **encourage you to think about switching** to giving by Standing Order paid via the Diocese to the Parish because:

- 1. It's easier for you.** A Standing Order saves you time and from having to remember each week. Once done, it's done for another year!
- 2. It's easier for the Parish.** The Diocese provides a free service - accounting for individual payments received and then sending us a single payment each month - so saving our volunteer Treasurer much time on administration. *This is a key factor when we ask someone to take on this duty for the benefit of us all.* The Diocese is legally obliged to credit the Parish with all of the money it receives.
- 3. Gift Aid is claimed monthly.** Gift Aid claimed by the Parish can take up to 3 months to arrive, but the Diocese receives it monthly, so improving our cash flow - and saving on administration again.
- 5. It's safer all round.** Less cash to account for and bank each week involves less risk for all involved.

## How much might we give?

The amount given is **between each individual and God**. Of necessity the Treasurer and Planned Giving Co-ordinator have sight of the figures in the course of their duties, but they treat this information in strictest confidence. Members of the PCC only see total and average giving figures, and personal information is never divulged to them.

As a guide, the average amount given across the Church nationally is about £16 a week; and in our Diocese it is approx. £12.50 a week.

The average amount given via Standing Order in Geddington Parish is approx. £7 a week.

If, between us we can give an average of £5 extra each week, it would utterly transform things, and put us firmly on the road to long-term sustainability - just as it has at Weekley.

## What's next?

If you like to give regularly in support of the Church's ministry and its missional activities and would also like to take advantage of the service offered by the Diocese for Standing Orders, then we have forms available that you can use to instruct your Bank, notify the Diocese, and make a Gift Aid Declaration so that the Church can reclaim a further 25p for every £1 that you give.

## Who can I talk to about this?

If you have any questions, our Planned Giving Co-ordinator, Helen Martin, and Nick Batchelor, a member of our PCC, are always happy to talk with you about any aspect of giving to God's Church.

Helen – call 07979 594665, or email [hlmartin2009@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hlmartin2009@hotmail.co.uk)

Nick – call 01536 669533 or email [nickbatchelor76@hotmail.com](mailto:nickbatchelor76@hotmail.com)