



# Financial giving and Worship

Financial gifts are an important part of worship at St Pats. There are five biblical principles which teach:

## 1. WHAT WE GIVE IS A MEASURE OF HOW MUCH WE LOVE

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.... Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit (Gal 5:22 NIV)*

As Christians we recognise that everything we have is given to us by God. We want to respond by being generous in giving our worship, our time and our money to Him as a way of saying thank you for all he has done for us.

## 2. TO GIVE AND NOT TO COUNT THE COST

*Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (He 13:5 NIV)*

It is not wrong to be rich, but it is wrong to love money. It is not wrong to be poor, but it is wrong to waste money on trivial things. It is not wrong to save money, but it is wrong to hoard it. The Bible's consistent message on managing money is that we must be wise and generous to those less fortunate than ourselves.

### **3. GIVING TO GOD MUST NOT BE ABOUT THE LEFTOVERS**

***“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites!... Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.***

*(Matt 23;23)*

Sacrificial giving may seem like asking too much. But the surprise is that giving in faith and beyond the level that seems easy can help us to really depend upon God for our daily bread.

### **4. WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM, POOR AS I AM?**

***If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;***

***If I were a wise man, I would do my part;***

***Yet what can I give Him?***

***Give Him my heart.***                      *Christina Rosetti 1905*

When considering how much to give, the most important part of the equation is prayer and worship which can change our gifts from acts of duty or charity into love gifts for God to use to further his work on earth. Our prayers can take us out of ourselves, and refocus our attention away from our own concerns and on to God’s priorities and on to other people.

### **5. CONSIDERED OR CASUAL? CHURCH OR ANOTHER CHARITY?**

***...on the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income 1 Cor 16; 1***

***God loves a cheerful giver.***                      *2 Cor 9:7*

Giving is a proper response to what we have received from Jesus: forgiveness, grace, and salvation. When life seems easy then we might feel like giving generously and warmheartedly; when the road is rough we might feel that there are other priorities and we are more reluctant to give. God knows this and it is why the Bible tells us that regular giving requires prayerful thought, planning and commitment.

**(Written by Martin Hayward)**