



# Giving

## Why should I give?

We give out of gratitude to God, who has given us so much (2 Corinthians 9:11) that we want to respond to him in gratitude.

It is sometimes said that the last part of a Christian to be born-again is his wallet! Though this is meant as a joke, there is a grain of truth in it. Our giving is symptomatic of our commitment—not that we give to demonstrate how committed we are, rather we give because we are committed to God and to the establishment of his kingdom on the earth.

GCC needs practical support to grow and that means committing ourselves, including our giving, to the church and God’s kingdom. If you participate regularly in the life of the church, it is only reasonable to contribute financially and in other practical ways.

As everything we have belongs to God and we are only temporary custodians of it



whilst we are here on earth, the issue is not how much of our wealth we should give, but how much of his wealth God allows us to keep. He can do what he wants with it and, in his goodness, he usually lets us keep most of it!

Finally, we will be blessed as we give: it truly is more blessed to give than to receive.

cheerfully

The Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’

*Acts 20:35 (NIV)*

Where your treasure is,  
there your heart will be also.

*Matt 6:21 (NIV)*



## What should I give?

In the Old Testament, God’s people gave one-tenth (tithe) of their income to support the work of God and freewill offerings on top of that. Some people think that we should give the same proportion of our income in this day and age. Actually, the

New Testament makes it clear that there is no limit to what we should give (Mark 10:21).

At GCC, both as individuals and as a church, we believe that we should be generous and wise in our giving, which should be in proportion to the means we have at our disposal (1 Corinthians 16:2) mixed with trust in God to provide all of our needs and enough to bless others (Philippians 4:19).

We are not driven by laws and rules but led by the Spirit. Whilst the principle of giving towards the work of God still applies (and 10% is a good figure to aim for) the exact amount is for you and the Lord to decide (2 Corinthians 9:7).

### How should I give?

The New Testament tells us to give cheerfully (*literally hilariously!*) (2 Corinthians 9:7). In truth, if we give grudgingly or with ulterior motives, it may be best not to give anything at all until those issues are sorted out.

Apart from the Gift Aid administrator and treasurer, who need to know who gives what in order to claim back Gift Aid, nobody else knows, or wants to know, what individuals give to GCC. The

biblical principle here is to give in secret and keep it to yourself.

We should carefully plan our giving so that we make the most of it.

### Where should I give?

GCC's budget is carefully planned annually and relies on regular giving. Throughout the Bible, and in society in general, financial support at the place where you worship is a given. Existing in a material world, the church requires financial support in order to function. This does not exclude our relying on God, as there is always more we can do if we have the financial means to do it.

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

*1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)*

God's kingdom exists beyond the local church and we need to keep a global vision for his work and specifically support certain projects that he lays on our hearts, if they are not supported by GCC.

Give regularly to the church and to other causes, Christian or otherwise, that God puts on your heart but keep some for flexible giving if the Lord touches your

But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

*Matthew 6:2-4 (NIV)*





heart as a one-off. This develops our discipleship and keeps us listening to the Lord.

### When should I give?

We don't have a traditional offering or collection during our meetings at GCC. However, there is usually a box at the rear of the meeting room where anyone who attends can give towards the work of the church. Some people use this to deposit cash or cheques, which are their regular giving to the church.

Bank transfers (BACS) can be made directly into the church account but most regular givers set up a standing order\*, which is convenient and saves them having to remember each time. If circumstances change and you can no longer afford to give as much, you can lower or cancel your standing order by contacting your bank at any time. Please let the GCC treasurer know so that budget adjustments can be made. If you have serious financial difficulties, please tell us anyway, as we may be able to assist you.

Once-only or irregular donations can be

made in the same way as above, handed in at the church office or sent there by post (though we would not recommend cash being sent this way).

### Gift Aid

The UK government allows charities, including GCC, to reclaim tax paid on donations. This is known as Gift Aid. Anyone who pays UK income tax can make a Gift Aided donation. HMRC treats donations

as if the giver had already deducted

basic rate tax. GCC can reclaim this tax to increase the value of the donation. Givers must:

- ⇒ Pay enough UK income tax and/or capital gains tax to cover the amount reclaimed;
- ⇒ Complete a Gift Aid form<sup>α</sup> and give it to the GCC Gift Aid administrator; and
- ⇒ Give their own money.

A Gift Aid declaration can be made to cover individual donations, a series of donations, donations made during a specified period or all future donations. It can also be

backdated for up to six years prior to the date of the declaration.

You should not complete a Gift Aid declaration if you do not pay UK income tax. If you cease to pay tax or do not pay sufficient tax to cover the amount claimed

\* A standing order form to complete and give to your bank is available from the GCC website, the church office or the information table at the Sunday morning meetings.

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efficiently

thoughtfully

back on your donations, please inform the Gift Aid administrator, who will make the necessary adjustments.

Periodically, the Gift Aid administrator completes a form listing the total Gift Aided donations made by each individual and sends this to HMRC. In due course, HMRC makes a payment to GCC equivalent to income tax paid at the basic rate on those donations.

At GCC we encourage givers, who meet the conditions, to sign up for Gift Aid as one means of being good stewards of what God has given to us.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

*1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)*

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion — for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work

*2 Cor 9:6–8 (NIV)*



## 01747 825611

Wessex House, 8 High Street,  
Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4AG

[admin@gillinghamcommunitychurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@gillinghamcommunitychurch.co.uk)

[www.gillinghamcommunitychurch.co.uk](http://www.gillinghamcommunitychurch.co.uk)

[facebook.com/gillinghamcc](https://facebook.com/gillinghamcc)

[@gillinghamcc](https://twitter.com/gillinghamcc)

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## Connect

**If you'd like to discuss any aspect of giving please speak to the treasurer, Gift Aid administrator or any of the leaders.**