Generous



at ST · BARNABAS KENSINGTON

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www.stbk.org.uk

Giving at St Barnabas

At St Barnabas, we want to be a generous church. And for that, we need to practice generous giving ourselves.

Each year, over 85% of our regular income comes directly from members of the church. We are so grateful for all that we receive which enables us to fulfil our ministry and mission to be

A Kingdom Community

- welcoming in Jesus' name
- growing together as his disciples
- **stepping out** in God's mission to all nations

This is made possible as God takes our gifts and multiplies them for his kingdom work.

This is why we encourage all regular members to commit to generous giving as part of their Christian discipleship and as a concrete means of engaging in God's mission.

The aim of this booklet is to help you explore how you might be a part of this exciting challenge.

Generous Giving

Generosity is the fruit of grace, which is why there is something intensely beautiful about people who have a generous heart.

When we realise that all we have comes as a free gift from God, it fundamentally changes the way we look at our lives, our relationships, our possessions, our money. No longer are we owners with rights to preserve, we become stewards with resources to share.

Nowhere is this more true than in the lives of those who have been personally impacted by the Gospel. Generous giving is at the heart of the good news of Jesus Christ, "for God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3, I 6).

Now brothers and sisters, I want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing with God's people. 2 Cor 8.1-3

As the implications of God's extraordinary love for us begin to sink in, as we receive his gift of life in all its fullness, so our hearts are stirred to imitate him. One of the sure signs of the work of God's Holy Spirit in us is when we begin to think more in terms of giving than getting. When we look for opportunities to be generous.

The Spirit helps us in this because every fruit he produces in our lives is destined to overflow to those around. As we give love, joy, peace we sow God's grace into the lives of those who receive. Kingdom seeds by which everything becomes possible!

Because the instinct to put ourselves at the centre is so strong, generous giving is a discipline we need to work at in all areas of our lives. But Jesus was clear that the outward focus of this discipline is to be our money. This is because the pull of money in our lives is so strong that it quickly becomes an idol. Rather than mastering money, we are mastered by it.

But this is where the power of God breaks in! As God's grace touches us, overwhelming thankfulness loosens our hands and our purse-strings. Money finds the place it always should have in the economy of God: as a wonderful instrument of generosity and blessing. The more God gives to us, the more we can give in return!

Regular and generous giving is a central part of Christian discipleship by which we express our thanks to God and exercise our faith muscles.

So let's put our faith into practice and be **generous givers**!

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Cor 9,10-11

Some Practical Pointers to Generous Giving

I. Our giving comes from a grateful heart. It is an act of thankful worship to God who has showered his blessings on us in Jesus. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though he was rich, yet for your sake he become poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich". (2 Cor 8,9)

2. Giving is not about rules and regulations, but about generosity and faith. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart before God, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver". (2 Cor 9,7)

3. Our giving should be in proportion to our income and should be given first rather than from what we have left over. This allows everyone to participate in God's work whether rich or poor in the world's eyes. (1 Cor 16,2)

The concept of a 'tithe' whereby 10% of income is given to God is widely accepted throughout Scripture. Tithing to God through the local church enables us all to be effective in our worship, work and witness.

St Barnabas follows this principle in giving away 10% of all that we receive. If every member tithed their individual giving, our church finances, and the opportunities this would bring, would be transformed.

4. There are many different ways to give, but planned and regular

giving is best. Just like it is better to eat regularly rather than once a year, so regular giving brings discipline and rhythm to our Christian lives. It also helps the church to plan ahead and be wise stewards of our resources.

5. If you are a UK tax payer, engage in tax efficient giving. By filling in a Gift Aid form (attached), the church can claim an additional 25p on every \pounds I you donate at no extra cost to you.

6. We also give to the life and work of the church in practical

ways, through being a part of a ministry team, giving time to serve or by offering technical and professional expertise. St Barnabas could not function without this participation.

For more information about how to give generously in these or other areas, please consult the website or contact the church office.

How to Give

By regular standing order

The best and most efficient form of giving is by monthly standing order. To set up or amend a standing order, log in to your online banking or visit your local branch with St Barnabas Kensington's bank account details:

St Barnabas Kensington Account number: 78160073 Sort code: 50-30-10

Quote reference as: your first name and surname.

Once you have set up or amended your standing order, please email us at giving@stbk.org.uk so we can identify your gift and thank you personally.

At a Sunday Service

You can give by cash, cheque, credit or debit card at any Sunday service when the offering is taken. You may also give electronically by credit or debit card at the back of church before or after the service.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider filling in a Gift Aid Declaration (attached) to make your gift go even further.

Giving Online

You may make a one-off gift or set up a recurring gift online directly through the St Barnabas website: <u>www.stbk.org.uk/onlinegiving</u>. Please fill in the Gift Aid declaration to make your gift go further.

Send a cheque

To give via cheque, please make the cheque out to "St Barnabas Kensington" and either give it via a Sunday service collection or post it to the church address.

Payroll giving via your employer

Many employers offer Payroll Giving which allows you to give directly to St Barnabas from your salary before tax is deducted. This means if you give \pounds 100 per month and are a basic rate taxpayer, the gift will only cost you \pounds 80 from your net pay. If you pay a higher rate of tax, \pounds 100 a month will only cost you \pounds 60 from your net pay. To find out if your employer offers Payroll Giving, contact your HR office.

Charitable aid agencies

You may wish to give to St Barnabas via a charitable aid agency such as <u>Stewardship</u>, <u>JustGiving</u>, <u>CAF</u>, <u>Charities Trust</u>, or <u>Charitable Giving</u>. These agencies are useful for those who give to multiple charities and wish to have their giving recorded in one place or for those who wish to give anonymously to St Barnabas.

Some agencies such as <u>CAF American Donor Fund</u> also offer a more taxefficient method of giving for US taxpayers.

Leave a legacy

If you are considering making a bequest to St Barnabas or have already included a gift to St Barnabas in your will and would like to speak to someone about legacy giving, please contact <u>giving@stbk.org.uk</u>

Fundraising

Fundraising

There are many creative means of fundraising for charity. Why not fundraise and help St Barnabas? You can fundraise online via give.net at <u>www.stbk.org.uk/onlinegiving</u>, "Start Fundraising".

Shopping online with Easy Fundraising

Shopping can raise money for the church! By designating St Barnabas as your chosen charity on <u>www.easyfundraising.org.uk</u>, participating retailers will make a donation to St Barnabas every time you make an on-line purchase, at no extra cost to you.

Amazon Smile

Help St Barnabas each time you shop on Amazon by signing up to <u>AmazonSmile</u>. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to St Barnabas. This is at no additional cost.

St Barnabas is registered on Amazon Smile as: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Barnabas Kensington.

Employer matched giving

Many employers offer matched giving schemes. In most cases, the company will match your donation pound-for-pound up to a specific amount; a handful of organisations will even double your gift. Please contact the office for a list of companies that we understand currently match gifts donated by their employees. The list is not definitive, and many more companies may also offer this option.

Some employers may not match giving for religious purposes, though most will match gifts for community or social projects such as Night Shelter or Sticky Fingers.

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NOTES

Please notify us if you want to cancel the Gift Aid declaration, change your name or home address, no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

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If you pay Income tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid relief, please contact us.

Please return this form to the church office



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You may also fill in the online form:

