

Giving for Life

How can we give to support the church?

Every week our church meets for worship so that we can celebrate God's goodness and generosity to us. In response to all that we've received from God, we encourage everyone to give as an expression of our gratitude.

As a church, our vision is...

- To be thriving and full of the life of God
- To be at the heart of our community
- To welcome all people
- To grow in faith, and offer others the opportunity to grow in faith



We recognise that we all need to play our part in order to see our vision fulfilled - by giving our money, time and skills to serve God and one another. We're excited about the many ways in which God is working through us!

So how does it work?

Our church belongs to The Church of England, and is part of the diocese of Southwark. Our congregation is responsible for the upkeep of our building, and for funding all of our activities and outreach. Our Vicar is funded by the diocese, but we are expected to make an annual contribution to the diocese towards the costs of training, supporting and providing ministers across South London.

In our church we choose to give away 10% of all the money that we are given to support the work of other local and national charities and mission organisations. We think it's important to be involved in other initiatives, as well as focussing on our own local area.

What does it cost?

Our churches cost around £100,000 in total to run each year; or around £2,000 every week.



Roughly:

35% goes on the cost of maintaining and running the buildings

15% goes on the cost of services, mission and charitable donations

45% is given to the diocese towards the cost of having a vicar

5% goes on miscellaneous expenses

We cover a third of the costs of running the church through hiring out the halls, but the bulk of our income comes through contributions from you, our members.

What are we asking you to do?

We're asking you to think and pray about your giving...

- If you don't give to the church at present, we'd encourage you to **think about starting to give**
- Planned, regular giving helps us to plan ahead, spend efficiently and ensure we take proper care of our buildings. **Could you give on a regular basis via standing order?**
- For those who already give... We recognise that people's financial circumstances can change. **Does your giving reflect your current situation, or does it need to be reviewed?**
- The Bible challenges us to be generous givers. Many Christians commit themselves to giving away 10% of their income. **Is God prompting you to increase the amount you give?**

We recognise that all our circumstances are different, and what's right will be different for each of us.

Why do we give?

We asked some of our church members why they give, here's what they said...

“We give to the church because the church gives so much to us and to others and because it seems right to contribute.”

“I give to the church because I believe that as God's people, we have His work to do in our part of the world. It is part of our responsibility to give in whatever way we can to contribute to this amazing privilege.”

“I give primarily to say “thank you”. And as a church I think we should aim to be self-sufficient and not have to rely on the generosity of other churches in our diocese in order to survive. And beyond that, we need to be able to fund our development and mission aspirations.”

“Being part of a church has been a key part of my life for nearly 30 years. I think the church has a really important role to play in people's lives and in the community and for this it needs resources. I want to be an active member of the church and that is why among other things I want to give financially.”

“I have always given to support the ministry of my local church. As regular attenders and users of the building, we are the ones that pay to keep the lights on and the rates bill paid. When I go to the cinema, my ticket price covers the cost of my entertainment and towards the costs of keeping the cinema open, so it makes sense to me that we should contribute towards the cost of keeping the church open – and I go to church far more often than I go to the cinema!”

“Giving is part of my worship. I give because I love God, and this is one of the ways that I show it.”



What do you need to do next?

If you are a **regular attender** and would like to donate, our preferred method is via standing order. Giving in this way allows us to plan ahead, spend efficiently and look after our buildings properly. If you're a tax payer it also allows us to collect Gift Aid which increases the value of your donation by 25%.

The simplest way to set up a standing order is directly with your bank, using the details below. We then ask you to complete the enclosed form, including the Gift Aid form (if you're a tax payer), and return it in the envelope provided so that we can update our records.

Standing Order Information

Account Name: PCC GdShep StPeter

Sortcode: 20-49-81

Account No: 90659096

Reference: *Please use your name as the reference*



If you are not able to give on a regular basis regularly, or are **a visitor to our church** but would like to make a donation, feel free (but not obligated!) to give through the offering we take during each service. You can give via cash or cheque, or using the weekly giving envelopes that are available from John Murray, the Gift Aid Secretary. Cheques are made payable to: PCC Good Shepherd w. St. Peter's, Lee

For more info contact:

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Giving is done in confidence, and no details are shared with any other church officers or members.