

Saint Michael & All Angels

**All things come from You
O God...**



**...and of Your own
do we give You**

1 Chronicles 29: 14

**A guide to help you review
your giving back to God**

As Christians we recognise that God has freely given us Salvation.

We want to commit our whole lives to God, because He's given us everything – time, health, money, skills, possessions, family & friends.



How can we say "Thank you" to God for all these blessings? How can we manage them best for the work of His kingdom on earth?

Here's a simple step-by-step approach.

Christian principles

How can you apply Biblical principles of Christian stewardship to your life?

- † Give **to God first** before spending time and money on yourself
- † Give **a proportion** of your time and money
- † Give **regularly** - weekly or monthly by Standing Order
- † Give **generously** as God has promised to provide for your needs
- † Give **tax-efficiently** - sign up to Gift Aid if you can.

Throughout history, Christians have practiced the Biblical standard of giving - the tithe - one tenth of income, 10%. The New Testament suggests that 'generosity' starts with a tithe.

This will enable the Church to continue and develop our ministry as part of our life together.



Your time

Work out how much time you spend on God's work.

- Include your personal devotions, your church activities, your work for community organisations and charities that you do as part of your Christian ministry. Remember to include occasional or once-a-year activities.
 - How many hours is this in a typical week?
 - How many waking hours are there in a typical week? (100 hours?)
- So... what proportion of this do you *specifically* commit to God?



Your money

Work out how much money you give to God.

- Include regular giving to your church and responses to one-off appeals (e.g. church roof, gift days).
- Add in your gifts to external Christian organisations like home and overseas mission agencies.
- What does this total over a typical week or month? You may find it easier to work out the annual total if you give annual donations to many organisations.

What share of your gross income do you devote to God's work?
 What share goes to your church?

Now work out your take-home income (pay, benefits, pensions, bonuses etc after tax and national insurance) for a week, month or year.

What share of your take-home income do you devote to God's work?
 How much goes to your church?

Your possessions

What about your stewardship of what you own?

- Do you use your home or your car in God's service (e.g. hospitality and lifts) to help others?
- Do you look after His environment, by recycling waste and saving energy?
- When you shop do you support fair trade producers?



When to review?

Choose a regular time with God each year to review your stewardship... your birthday... Christmas, Easter or Harvest... or when we hold our Stewardship Review.



Pray that God will help you as you review your giving.



Bible and Prayer

Armed with the facts about your *current* commitments to God's work, you can pray about what your response should be.

You may find it helpful to read a relevant passage of scripture like Jesus' parable of the talents (Matthew 25: 14-30) or Paul's encouragement to church members (2 Corinthians 8 & 9 and 1 Timothy 6: 17-19) and to ask where am I storing my "treasure"? On earth or in heaven? (Matthew 6: 19-21)

Giving Calculator

Giving %	Weekly income					
	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500	£600
1%	£1.00	£2.00	£3.00	£4.00	£5.00	£6.00
2%	£2.00	£4.00	£6.00	£8.00	£10.00	£12.00
5%	£5.00	£10.00	£15.00	£20.00	£25.00	£30.00
10%	£10.00	£20.00	£30.00	£40.00	£50.00	£60.00

How much we give should reflect how much we have received.

Plans and priorities

Just now your time and money commitments may mean you cannot give what you feel is really due to God.
 You can only give so much when you feel He is worth more.

So, work out a plan of how you can move towards giving more over the next few years.

- What activities or expenses are pure luxuries and could be gradually given less priority and maybe reduced?
- Can you give some of a pay rise or windfall income to Church instead of spending it mainly on yourself?

Records

Make a note of your decisions and plans to help you monitor your progress. They will be a very useful input to your stewardship review in a year's time.

