

Everyone's financial circumstances are unique. The New Testament gives us some guiding principles on giving through the Church:

- We are to give in proportion to our income
- Giving should be part of the family budget and not the leftovers.
- Our giving should be regular to enable the church to plan its activities.
- Our giving should be cheerful and generous.

It is for each of us to respond prayerfully to these principles.

Deciding how to give:

A regular commitment to give is part of belonging to a Parish. We hope that we are able to increase the percentage of Planned Givers among our congregations. Our preferred method of collecting payments is by **Bank Standing Order**, as it reduces administration for the Parish.

The Parish also benefits greatly if **taxpayers give by Gift Aid**. This costs you nothing, but we can then reclaim tax from the Inland Revenue, which adds over 20% to the value of all giving. Gifts of **any** size made by taxpayers are eligible for tax recovery. On a personal basis higher rate taxpayers can get their tax bill reduced by 25p for every £1 they give the parish – and 50% taxpayers will be able to recover even more.

Enclosed is the "Giving for Life" leaflet and the Planned Giving Form, incorporating a Standing Order instruction and Gift Aid Declaration. Please complete and return the form in confidence to the Planned Giving Recorder, Graham Smith at the address shown on the form.

A final word from Robert

Giving includes money; giving involves much more. Planned Giving requires us to consider how we deal with our money; Jesus said "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." But if we are to respond fully to God, then we will want to pray about this, and also ensure our actions match our words. You are invited to "give for life." Your giving enhances the life of this parish, building up the young, reaching out to those in need. For all you can do, I give thanks.



www.holytrinityguildford.org.uk



Planned Giving 2010

Giving for Life

The Easter season is an excellent time for each of us to be considering once again how we can pray about, plan and renew our financial giving to the Parish. The season begins with hope renewed, the risen Christ reaching out to timid anxious disciples. The season reaches a climax at the festival of Pentecost when the disciples, now confident and empowered, themselves reach out to others who have not yet heard the good news of Christ.

First, a "thank you" : giving and gratitude go together. We give out of gratitude for what we receive from God. Also, I continue to be grateful for those who, even in these difficult financial times, give regularly and sacrificially to support the work of God and this Parish. Some of you may be reasonably new, either to this Parish or to the Christian faith. By responding to this request for Planned Giving, you become part of a large team who are dedicated to growing God's kingdom here in Guildford.

There are three key areas that your giving will, in part, support this year:

1. **Children and Youth Work:** we want to employ a part-time youth worker who will draw teenagers together, deepen their faith and inspire them to be faithful and committed themselves. The youth

worker would also encourage and assist the excellent work that is already happening with younger children.

2. We are part of a group of churches in Guildford which are supporting a new post of **Town Centre Chaplain** whose role will be to reach out to the businesses, shoppers and visitors in the centre of town. This Parish has long been involved in ministry in the town centre, "Opening our hearts to the High Street"; but there are more opportunities arising now than we can currently react to without this new post. The Chaplain will also be involved with the superb Street Angels project that helps those in need on Friday and Saturday evenings in the town.
3. At last we have permission to **build ramped access to Holy Trinity** Church, leading directly off the High Street. This will be a great gift to the town, and make it easier for us to host more events in the church. We have already set aside some money for this, and received a substantial grant from SITA. As well as searching for more grants, we want to make sure we have enough funds to complete this soon.

All three of these projects are about reaching out to our neighbours and community so that we don't hide our light "under a bushel." In addition, your Planned Giving allows us to maintain the regular round of services, activities, prayer and pastoral care which is so highly valued. We do not wish to pull back from anything that is on offer here.

Robert

Giving at Holy Trinity & St Mary's:

Our Parish relies upon the generous financial support from those who regularly attend our churches, as we do not receive money from the Diocese. It is our hope that everyone who considers Holy Trinity and/or St Mary's to be their regular place of worship would want to contribute to the cost of the Lord's ministry among us. Some may give more, others less, but each of us has a role to play in supporting the Church.

Over 90% of our regular income comes through Planned Giving and it has become the standard way for most of us to make our financial contribution to the life and work of this Parish, and to help achieve our Parish Vision of being **Faithful, Engaging and Hospitable**

How much does it cost to run the Parish?

The Parish requires money to help fund our Vision with day to day worship and pastoral care, secretarial support, running our buildings, charitable giving, new initiatives, and the Parish Share to the Diocese - which not only pays for our own clergy, but goes towards funding the wider church including parishes less fortunate than ours.

Approximate cost based on 2010 budget and church membership of 243

	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Running costs	£ 4,700	£ 20,500	£ 245,000
Average cost per person	£ 20	£ 84	£ 1,000

New initiatives achieved in 2009 with the help of Planned Giving:

- Increasing the range of activities at St Mary's and completing the repairs to the west wall.
- Improving the website, as a means of keeping in touch with the congregation, and raising the profile of the Parish in the town.
- Playing a significant part in the development of ecumenical work in Guildford.
- Increasing the use of, and income from the Trinity Centre and both our churches, including a new public address system in Holy Trinity.

Deciding what to give:

'On the first day of every week each of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income' 1 Corinthians 16: 2 (NIV)

We give thanks for all the contributions however large or small in 2009, when we received £164,000 from 169 Planned Givers.

In considering how much to give in 2010 you may wish to be aware of the current profile of giving which is shown in a table on the enclosed Planned Giving form.

Our aim in 2010 is to try to spread the load, as 57% of Planned Giving comes from only 22% of givers.