



## Finance



**Thornbury Baptist Church  
Gillingstool  
Thornbury  
South Gloucestershire BS35 2EG  
01454 419118**

**[www.thornburybaptistchurch.co.uk](http://www.thornburybaptistchurch.co.uk)**

## WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET?

This question was the catch phrase from a long running advertising campaign for a certain credit card. Questions about finance can seem intrusive - what we earn, how much we have saved, how much we spend, these are all personal issues - and in Church life we do not ask those questions of each other. At the same time, as Christians, we recognise that all that we have comes from God and that when we become Christians we give our life back to God so that He is Lord over all of our lives - and that includes our finances. These facts guide us in matters of money.

## CHURCH FINANCES

Thornbury Baptist Church (TBC) is a self funding fellowship of believers, our finances coming only from those who attend the church. In any one year some 30% of all giving (20% from general funds plus specific giving) goes to Mission. Finance is also set aside for a Care fund for those in need. The rest pays the salaries of our paid workers, running the building etc.

## GIVING

The Bible talks about "giving", although the concept of giving is not only related to finances. There are three key principles to this idea of giving.

- **Giving is an affair of the heart.** Giving comes out of a heart response to God. Jesus said "where your treasure is there will your heart be also." (Luke 12 vs 34).
- **Giving is an attitude of grace.** Jesus said "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20 vs 35). Paul said "See that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8 vs 7).
- **Giving is an act of worship and of love.** "They gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us" (2 Corinthians 8 vs 5) . In Luke 7 vs 37 to 39 we read of a woman who washed the feet of Jesus with costly perfume as her expression of love for her Lord.

## HOW MUCH SHOULD WE GIVE?

This question comes from the Old Testament Law (Leviticus 27 vs 30) which said that 10% of a person's income was to be given to God and His works. This principle of tithing is no longer binding as this was before Jesus and the New Testament and Christians no longer live according to the Old Testament law but by the grace of God. How much you give is not the point (Luke 21 vs 1-4) as it is the heart to give that is important and that is a matter between you and God. There are, however, some guidelines, particularly in 1 Corinthians 16 and 2 Corinthians 8 and 9:

- **Giving should be regular.** Paul said "On the first day of every week each one of you should set aside some money ...." (1 Corinthians 16 vs 2).
- **Giving should be according to means.** Paul goes on to say "...in keeping with his income ..." (1 Corinthians 16 vs 2) and "...according to what one has ...(2 Corinthians 8 vs 12).
- **Giving should be a choice of free will.** "Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9 vs 7).

- **Giving should be prayerful.** “But first they gave themselves to the Lord .” (2 Corinthians 8 vs 5)
- **Giving should be generous.** “Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity”. (2 Corinthians 8 vs 2 and 3)

### **HOW CAN WE GIVE?**

Giving within TBC is anonymous, although some methods of giving will mean that the Treasurer will know but will keep the matter in strictest confidence. If you are a tax payer we encourage the use of **gift aid** as this allows us to claim back the tax on your gift. Gift aid can be used for one-off gifts as well as regular giving. Giving can be by:

- Cash and cheques placed in the offering.
- Charity cheques and vouchers placed in the offering.
- One-off on-line transaction from a bank account.
- Regular standing order from a bank account.
- Direct deduction from your salary by your employer.

If you would like to know more about how to give then please contact the church office who will arrange for the Treasurer to contact you.

### **HOW ARE CHURCH FINANCES MANAGED?**

The Church Leadership Team have the responsibility for ensuring that Church finances are properly managed through a defined set of delegations and authorities, with all major matters of finance being passed through the Family Forum. Regular updates are given to the Family Forum by the Treasurer and full accounts are kept and independently audited in accordance with legislation. These accounts are formally presented to the Family Forum at the end of each financial year. So the whole process is transparent and safeguarded.

### **A NOTE FOR VISITORS**

We see giving as something that is for those who are a part of TBC. Therefore, although an offering bag is passed round at almost all services as part of our act of worship, we do not want any visitors to feel any compulsion to give, so please feel free to let the bag pass by.