

Generous Giving



At

St Laurence

Blackmore

Giving at St Laurence

At St Laurence, we want to be a generous church. For that, we need to practice generous giving ourselves.

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly

John 10:10

Generosity is at the heart of our faith, we believe in a generous God and our own generosity is a testament and hallmark of our faith in action. The ministry and mission of The Church of England, of which we are part, is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.

Each year, around 60% of our regular income comes directly from members of our church. We are so grateful for all that we receive which, along with fundraising and other income, 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 3,16)

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 and peace we sow God's grace into the lives of those who receive. Seeds of the Kingdom 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

Generosity is at the heart of our faith, we believe in a generous God and our generosity is a testament and hallmark of our faith in action. The ministry and mission of The Church of England is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.

Giving to the church is about more than money; it is all about our ministry. It is every service we hold, every couple married, every family welcomed for baptism, every individual hearing the Gospel, every bereaved family supported, every visit and home communion to the sick and housebound, every encouragement offered to those in need in our community. Giving makes this ministry possible.

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 became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich". (2 Cor 8,9)

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)

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)

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 manage resources.

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 Laurence could not function without this participation.

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 these account details:

Account Name: Blackmore PCC Bank: Santander PLC
Sort Code: 09-01-55 Account No: 45210909

Quote reference as: PG and your name. Once you have set up your standing order, please email blackmorechurchft@gmail.com so we can identify your gift and thank you personally. Please also complete a Gift Aid Declaration if you are a UK taxpayer as this will increase the value of your giving (see next page).

At a Sunday Service:

You can give at any service by cash or cheque in the collection plate or electronically by credit / debit card using the card machine at the back of church before or after the service. If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider filling in a Gift Aid Declaration.

Giving Online:

You may make a donation online through the St Laurence website: www.blackmorechurch.org.uk/giving. Please fill in the Gift Aid Declaration to make your gift go further.

Payroll giving via your employer:

Many employers offer Payroll Giving which allows you to give directly from your salary before tax is deducted. This means if you give £100 per month and are a basic rate taxpayer, the gift will only cost you £80 from your net pay. If you pay a higher rate of tax, £100 a month will only cost you £60 from your net pay.

Leave a legacy:

If you are considering making a bequest to St Laurence or have already one in your will and would like to speak to someone about legacy giving, please email: blackmorechurchft@gmail.com

St Laurence Church, Blackmore

Gift Aid Declaration

If you are a UK taxpayer and eligible to Gift Aid your donation, please complete the declaration below. This will increase your gift by 25p for every £1 given at no extra cost to you or us. Thank you.

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made to Blackmore PCC from the date of this declaration and in the past four years.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email (optional): _____

Please notify the treasurer if you:

- ◆ Want to cancel this declaration
- ◆ Change your name or home address
- ◆ No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax which allows charities to reclaim 25p for every £1 donated. If you pay Income Tax at the higher 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.

Please complete this form and either:

Post to:

The Treasurer

Corfu, Blackmore Road,

Blackmore, Ingatestone, CM4 0QX

or scan and email to:

blackmorechurchft@gmail.com

Privacy Notice: This form is held by the Treasurer and only used for the purpose of claiming Gift Aid.

For more information about how to give generously please see our website: www.blackmorechurch.org.uk
or contact the treasurer by email at: blackmorechurchft@gmail.com



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