

[Giving](#)

Thank you for clicking on our "Giving" page. We are delighted you want to find out more about the subject of Christian giving, and we hope the following information will answer any questions you may have.

Why Should I Give?

Paul writes:

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

(2 Corinthians 9:6-8 [NKJV])

Any Christian ministry requires money. It costs money to set people aside as gospel workers, to resource ministry, and to run facilities where ministry can happen. The more we give financially to gospel ministry, the more we enable gospel ministry to happen.

However, our attitude as we give is more important than the amount we give. We must not give out of a sense of obligation, but willingly, cheerfully and generously because we long to see God's work flourish.

As those of us who attend GEFC give, we can also trust that God will provide the financial resources necessary to facilitate the work He has called us to on the Greenstead Estate and further afield.

Why Should I Give to the Church?

We are an independent church, which means that the congregation funds all the costs relating to our ministry. We don't belong to a denomination or a larger body that might pay the bills or fund the upkeep of our building. We are entirely dependent on the gifts we receive, and they determine the ministry we can undertake as a church.

Where Does the Money Go?

You can be sure that as much of the money given as possible goes directly to support gospel workers and gospel work, both here at the church and elsewhere.

The money is spent in four key areas:

a) Salaries for Gospel Workers

We currently employ a full-time pastor, and would like to eventually be able to employ further workers so that we might reach more people with the gospel message.

b) Ministry-Related Expenses

In order to run the Sunday School, the children's Clubs, evangelistic events, and other church activities, there are equipment, administration and publicity-related costs.

c) The Building

Having a building gives us a presence throughout the week in our local community and provides an important base from which gospel ministry can happen. However, maintenance, heating and insurance for the building all cost money.

d) Gifts to Support Gospel Work beyond our Walls

Each year, as a church, we give to Missionary Societies and other Christian organisations that we want to support, and to any visiting preachers we invite to speak.

How Can I Give?

We do not pass a collection bag or plate around during the services because we do not want visitors to feel uncomfortable, and we do not want people to give out of a sense of obligation or compulsion. For many non-Christians, their impression of church is that it is 'after their money' and we want to avoid contributing in any way to that stereotype.

However, if you do wish to give, there are two key ways you can give regularly to the church:

a) Boxes

There is an offertory box on the wall just inside the main doors into the worship area. In addition, when there is a communion service, a further box is provided for gifts to the "Inasmuch Fund", which is used to help any we are aware of who are passing through a time of need.

However, you may also wish to consider giving by standing order:

b) Standing Order

We are very grateful for any gifts we receive via the offertory boxes, but if you are regularly attending the church, we would like to encourage you to consider giving on a regular basis by standing order.

Firstly, this helps us to plan and budget accurately, allowing us to make best use of the resources we are given. Secondly, if you are a tax-payer, you can (if you wish) complete a Gift Aid declaration, which allows the church to recover (from the tax authorities) an additional 25p for every £1 donated.

Any further questions?

Please contact me on 01206 510114 or by email at pastor@gefc.org.uk

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider giving to Greenstead Evangelical Free Church and partnering with us in the ministry in which we are engaged. May the Lord guide you as you prayerfully consider your giving.

Martin Peirce
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