Frequently Asked Questions

What form of giving is most helpful for the church?
The most helpful way to support St Nicholas’, Newport is through the Parish Giving Scheme, which is by direct debit. This will then process your gift each month automatically in accordance with your instructions. This saves you time, means that you don’t forget when life is busy and, significantly, it helps the church with both its financial planning and its financial administration.

How do I get started?
**Step 1:** Please complete the Giving Review Pledge Form and return it in the envelope provided by placing it in the collection at the service on ‘Pledge Sunday’, 27th October, or by posting it to the Treasurer.
**Step 2:** Please then complete the Giving Form in The Parish Giving Scheme information pack, which is a direct debit instruction, reflecting what you have put on your Pledge Form and send it direct to the Parish Giving Scheme office in the addressed envelope provided. This is the church’s preferred way of receiving regular giving. (If you wish to give via Standing Order instead, please ask for a Standing Order form, along with a Gift Aid declaration form if you are a UK tax payer.)

How much should I give?
The Old Testament required God’s people to give 10% of their income to God’s Church and most churches around the world encourage Christians to use this as a rule of life. The New Testament doesn’t impose any law – it is a matter of freedom – we can give less or more as an expression of our gratitude to God.

What if I set up a direct debit and my circumstances change? You can change or cancel a direct debit at any time. Therefore, if you receive a pay increase or a bonus, you can increase your direct debit by telephoning, emailing or writing to the Parish Giving Scheme Office. Likewise, if you face redundancy or a period of reduced income, you can cancel your direct debit or reduce your monthly donations in the same way.

I give each week on the collection plate; why is this not what you want? Obviously if you prefer to give in this way, we are happy to receive your offering, but if we know what our regular monthly income is going to be, we are able to plan our budget and expenditure.

Do I have to tell anyone who might contact me how much I am giving? No, your contribution should be made prayerfully, between you and God, and the details are treated in the strictest of confidence and are only recorded by the Treasurer for tax purposes. The Parish Giving Scheme also gives you the option of giving anonymously, if you prefer, so that no one in the Church will know what you give.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9 v 6 & 7
Do you know what it costs to run our church for a year?

£11,000 for Worship, including Organist & Choir costs
£58,000 for Ministry, including Clergy, Pastoral Team & Housekeeper salaries & expenses
£28,000* on our Buildings and Administration, including maintenance & running costs
£ 1,000 on education, discipleship and social
£98,000 Total expenditure (*excludes major works to building)

Do you know what our income is a year?

£35,400 Planned giving
£10,000 Tax recovered from Gift Aided donations
£13,000 from Fees charged
£ 6,000 Weekly offerings & donations
£ 6,600 Fundraising, Interest, & Room Hire & Misc. Income
£71,000 Total income

= £518 per week shortfall

We ask and encourage all members of our regular congregation to keep their giving under review. We need to be perfectly clear that there is no financial model that secures our future in which the bulk of our income does not come from regular planned giving. Fundraising activities and fee revenues all help, but none can take the place of the regular gifts of our friends and supporters.

Giving money to support the work of the church is seen, in the Bible, as a mark of spiritual maturity. If we take this seriously, every Christian should aim to be giving regularly for their church ministries at home and abroad. Many churchgoers testify to the joy that comes from giving generously and seeing the fruit in people’s lives.

As an example, here are some principles about Christian giving drawn from 2 Corinthians chapters 8 & 9 (some of the oldest Christian texts that we possess). According to St Paul, Christians should give:

Sacrificially (8:1-2) accepting the personal cost
Generously (8:3-7) as much as we are able for the salvation of others
Gratefully (8:8-9) for Christ became poor so that we might be rich in Him
Realistically (8:10-12) according to our capacity
Equally (8:13-15) giving out of plenty to help others
Carefully (8:16-24) so that we are good stewards of God’s money
Actually (9:1-5) ensuring our practice matches our claims and promises
Freely (9:6-7) and cheerfully without compulsion or reluctance
Confidently (9:8-11) knowing that God will always supply our genuine needs
Encouragingly (9:12-17) so that others praise God for what he does through us.

The Christians who went before us in this place understood this. They recognised that their faith needed to be reflected in the way they used their money. Our wonderful Church is only here because of their generosity.

Please speak to the Vicar if you want to explore more fully what the Bible says about God’s generosity and our grateful response.