



## Giving...

### »Where does the money come from to run the church ?

God has called us to do a job. From the outset, this church has consisted of people who have been willing to give up their time, energy and money to this task. We believe that giving away a proportion of our income - the last but by no means least of these resources - to finance the work and ministry of the church is an important part of Christian commitment and something that the Bible clearly teaches. In other words, this church is funded by giving from its members.

### »How is the church's money organised ?

The church is registered with the Charity Commissioners (Registered Charity No: 1107408). We are therefore subject to the law governing charities. The trustees of the church are responsible for ensuring the safe handling and charitable use of the money. One of the trustees also represents Vineyard Churches UK.

### »What are the safeguards against mismanagement ?

We seek to implement the principles set out in the New Testament regarding the management of money given for the purpose of financing ministry. For example, taking great care to do what is right in the eyes of both the Lord and men; avoiding any ground for criticism of the way monies are administered; involving a team of trustworthy people, not just one person (*2 Corinthians 8:18-21*). Annually, accounts relating to the financial activity of the church are prepared. These are subject to an independent examination by an independent firm of chartered accountants and then submitted to the Charity Commissioners. They are always available to church members on request.

### »What are the benefits of giving ?

We believe that the Bible's instruction to all believers to give results in a number of benefits and blessings. The apostle Paul lists some of them in *2 Corinthians 9:6-15*:

- » generous giving generates rich rewards (v 6)
- » we experience God's love and favour (v 8)
- » God's grace is multiplied to us (v 10)
- » it results in thanksgiving to God (v 11)
- » people's needs are met (v 12)
- » it creates gratitude (v 15)

Furthermore, we believe that giving should be characterised by joy and cheerfulness, and that no one should give unwillingly or with resentment.

*"Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

### »What are the principles of giving ?

We believe that Scripture gives helpful instructions on this issue. Paul, for example, in *1 Corinthians 16* sets out several principles for giving:

- » regularly - choose a set time interval for your giving, e.g. weekly or monthly;
- » individually - everyone is invited to give;
- » systematically - let your giving be thoughtfully planned;
- » spontaneously - give without planning as well, let your hold on your money be a light one;
- » proportionately - the proportion of our income which we give is far more significant than the amount;
- » locally - your primary commitment should be to your own church.

**»What is the Gift Aid Scheme ?**

If you pay income or capital gains tax, the Church is entitled to reclaim the tax you have paid on your gift because we are a registered charity. When you sign a Gift Aid Declaration you declare that you are paying tax on your income or capital and that you want us to reclaim the tax which you have already paid. There is no longer a minimum amount, any sum now qualifies.

As you can imagine this can boost the Church’s revenue significantly. We recover tax at basic rate (22%) and all at no cost to you! If you are a higher rate taxpayer you can claim tax relief on your gifts.

**»How can I give ?**

