



LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Giving



Financially

Since ancient times, giving financially has always been one of the principal ways to worship God and serve other people. Giving away the ‘first fruits’ of our income is not only an expression of thanks to God for his provision, but also a declaration of trust in Him for the future. The New Testament teaches that followers of Jesus should give regularly and proportionally according to our level of income, both towards the work of the church and also for mission and the relief of hardship. Giving regularly is one of the 5 marks of membership at Locking Castle Church (see page 4), and as we grow as a Church, generous financial support will enable us to fulfil our calling to grow the Kingdom of God in Weston and see lives transformed.

This leaflet is designed to help address some frequently asked questions about giving, and also to explain the different ways you can choose to give at LCC.

What happens to the money I give to LCC?

The Ecumenical Church Council makes every effort to ensure every penny is used carefully and responsibly for Christian ministry both locally and beyond Weston. Every month the finances are scrutinised to make sure they are in line with the agreed budget and overall vision of the church and our annual accounts are independently audited and published. The current financial position is reported at church members meetings 4 times a year. Here are just a few examples of what it costs to run LCC:

<u>Staffing</u> £815 per week	<u>Heat & Light</u> £135 per week	<u>Building loan:</u> £667 per month	<u>Each Alpha course</u> £800	<u>Office costs</u> £46 per week	<u>Youth stuff</u> £44 per week
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The staffing figure above includes our Parish share paid to the Diocese of Bath and Wells whilst we have an Anglican lead minister. The Church council also chooses 6 mission partners to support each year through our 4th Sunday Mission focus collections. These include relief agencies such as Christian Aid, Mission and evangelism organisations as well as local charities.

How can I give?

At LCC we operate several schemes to help you plan your giving effectively, depending on whether or not you pay tax and how often you wish to make regular payments. The only people who will know how much you give are the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and the Gift Aid secretary.

- 1) **Standing Order.** You can simply instruct your bank to set up a regular payment to the following account: Sort code: **60-23-06** (NatWest) Account No: **57525358** - *Locking Castle Christian Partnership*. If you would like us to arrange this for you please complete the Bankers Order part of this leaflet and deliver it for the attention of the Treasurer at the Church office.

If you are a taxpayer, please complete the Gift Aid form as we can then reclaim tax back from HMRC to boost your donation. If you have any queries about Gift Aid, please do speak to Susan Brooks.

- 2) **The Envelope Scheme.** Weekly numbered envelopes are available from the Treasurer or Gift Aid secretary, Susan Brooks. These allow you to put cash in an envelope to pop into the collection bags during services.
- 3) **Cash or Cheque.** You can also give cash or cheques regularly and/or one-off gifts of any amount. If you are a tax payer please write on the back of the cheque 'Gift Aid' or if you are giving cash please use one of the Gift-Aid donation envelopes available in the lobby at the back of Church.

Note: As a church LCC is allowed to claim Gift Aid on up to £5000 of cash donations collected during services (up to £8000 from April 2016), however giving monthly by standing order certainly helps the church with planning and forecasting!

What about tithing?

Tithing is a biblical principle meaning a *tenth*. Tithing income was a requirement of the Old Testament law, but Jesus encouraged his followers to give generously, not out of legalistic duty. You shouldn't give, for example, if you are facing mounting debts or are in financial jeopardy. However the Apostle Paul adds:

'See to it that you excel in this grace of giving.' 2 Cor 8v7

'Whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Everyone should give what they have decided in their hearts to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' 2 Corinthians 9v7

Bankers Order

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS and return this form to:
The Treasurer, Locking Castle Church, Jasmine Way, Weston-super-Mare BS24 7JW

To the Manager _____

(Insert the name and address of your Bank/Building Society and Postcode)

Please pay to National Westminster Bank, Wells Branch, Sort Code **60-23-06**
Account No: **57525358 (Locking Castle Christian Partnership)** the sum of

£ _____ (Figures) £ _____ (Words)

Commencing on _____ (DD/MM/YYYY)

And thereafter every _____ (Week, Month, Year) until further notice.
This standing order replaces any previous standing order to this account.

My Account Name: _____

My Account Number: _____ Sort Code: _____

My Contact Telephone Number: _____

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Charity Gift Aid Declaration

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate



Gift Aid is reclaimed by the Church from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

	I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ _____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to: LOCKING CASTLE CHRISTIAN PARTNERSHIP	Signature
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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.

Title _____ First name or initial(s) _____

Surname _____

Full Home address _____

Postcode _____ Date _____

What are the 5 marks of membership at LCC?

Members at LCC demonstrate their commitment on a practical basis by subscribing to the following 5 marks of membership:

- A – Attending regularly
- B – Belonging to a Life Group
- C – Cheerfully giving regularly
- D – Doing service as part of a team
- E – Encouraging others to know Jesus

Romans 12:10-13: ‘Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.’

Please notify the Treasurer if you:

- want to cancel your giving or your gift aid declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional 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.



For more information about Locking Castle Church please visit our website:
www.lockingcastlechurch.org

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