

God's promise is clear. If we will honour Him with regards to our material wealth then he will honour us and richly bless us. He asks us to take the risk and test Him in this. He makes it therefore a test of faith. If we respond we will see the floodgates of heaven opened.

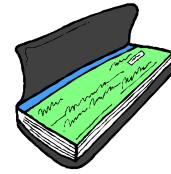
So why not try. Give to God, through His Church, a tenth of your income for say three months and see if the Lord blesses you for it. He says you can so **TEST HIM!**

2. How do I give my money ?

There are several ways of contributing to Church Funds. While putting cash in the collection plate is naturally welcome, the use of envelopes or bank transfers not only encourages regular giving but can also be linked to **GIFT AID** so that we can recover any tax related to a donor's contributions.

GIFT AID is now the most flexible way of tax-effective giving. The amount can be increased or decreased without notice, and only one Declaration Form needs to be completed which is effective for as long as you wish. Through **GIFT AID** each contribution qualifies for tax to be re-

claimed without time limit but the arrangement can be cancelled at any time. If you cease to pay tax you must end the arrangement



Cheques should be made out to 'Lisvane Parish Church'

GWADD (Give With A Direct Debit) is a completely new method of giving through **GIFT AID**. It involves a monthly donation by Direct Debit collected by the Church in Wales on or soon after the 6th of each month, and passed on to this church after about a week. The tax refund is sent to us about a month later. The administration is all done through the Church in Wales and so saves us work.

For more information about Gift Aid and how to give please contact

The Parish Gift Aid Secretary, Dr. John Gough, 10 Mill-wood, Lisvane, Cardiff CF14 0TL

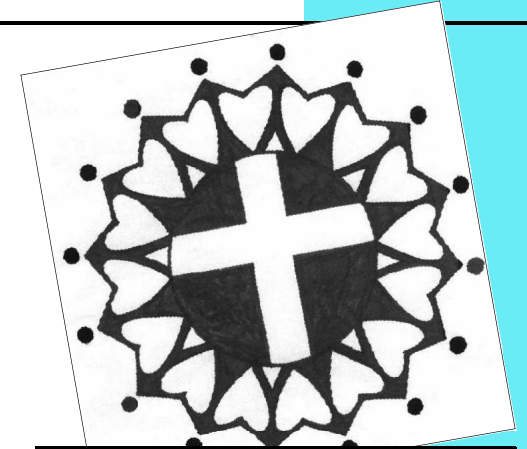
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Supporting your Church Financially



St Denys, Lisvane

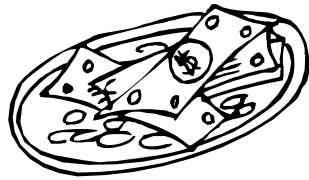
1. *To Tithe or not to Tithe ?*
2. *How do I give my money ?*

1. To Tithe or not to Tithe ?

What is Tithing ?

The word 'tithe' means a tenth portion, therefore 'tithing' means to give a tenth portion. In the Old Testament the first mention of tithes is when Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek 'priest of God most High' (Genesis 14.18) in thanksgiving for his blessing of Abraham as he returns from battle. Later this generous act became part of the Law of Moses and

the people of Israel where commanded to give 'a tithe of everything from the



'a tithe of everything...belongs to the Lord: it is holy to the Lord'

land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees' because it 'belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord' (Leviticus 27.30)

What about the New Testament ?

Although there is no specific teaching on tithing in the New Testament, there is a great deal of teaching on the nature of giving sacrificially. St Paul teaches us to 'offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship' (Romans 12:1)

The example for all Christians is the example of Jesus who gave himself in sacrifice for us on the

cross. We are called to follow Jesus, to be like Jesus. If we want to be like Jesus then we must live a sacrificial life. In practical terms this means not living according to the world's values but according to the values laid out for us in the Bible. St Paul also teaches us not to 'conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind' (Romans 12.2) We are called to dare to be different.

So what's the Problem ?

The trouble is that very often we take the sacrifice back! We find it hard to be different – easier to go with the popular view. Nowhere is this more true than in our attitude to our money and material wealth. What we do with our money is a



we take the Sacrifice back!

good indication of what we are committed to. A good example of this is what happened when King David in the Old Testament called on the people of Israel to supply what was needed for the building of their new temple. The response was so overwhelming that David was humbled by it. His thanksgiving includes words we use at Communion Services. 'who am I...that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what

comes from your hand' (1 Chronicles 29.14).

Everything we have belongs to the Lord. We are simply giving back to the Lord what already belongs to him as a sign of our willingness to be living sacrifices.

When we look at it from this point of view we see that tithing is simply giving back to God what already belongs to Him. It's not even being generous since in the Old Testament generosity is always seen as giving over and above the tithe. It's simply recognizing the authority God has over our lives and over all things.

Are there any benefits ?

Of course, if we are tithing out of our response to God's generosity to us we should not really be looking for benefits, but in fact there are benefits which God promises and even asks us to test him by. When the Israelites where being disobedient with regard to the tithing rules God said this 'Bring the whole tithe into the store house, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this ... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.' (Malachi 3.10)