



However, if 10% was a good marker for people in the Old Testament, how much more should we give in light of the cross? The tithe isn't our standard, the cross is!

Please prayerfully consider the amount you will give. For some, even giving 10% will be a huge challenge, whilst for others that will mean nothing.

### HOW DO I GIVE FINANCIALLY?

There are a number of ways to give - please see the Giving to River City form for more details.

### CAN RIVER CITY CLAIM GIFT AID ON WHAT I GIVE?

If you are a UK taxpayer then River City can claim an additional 25% from the government on any donations you make.

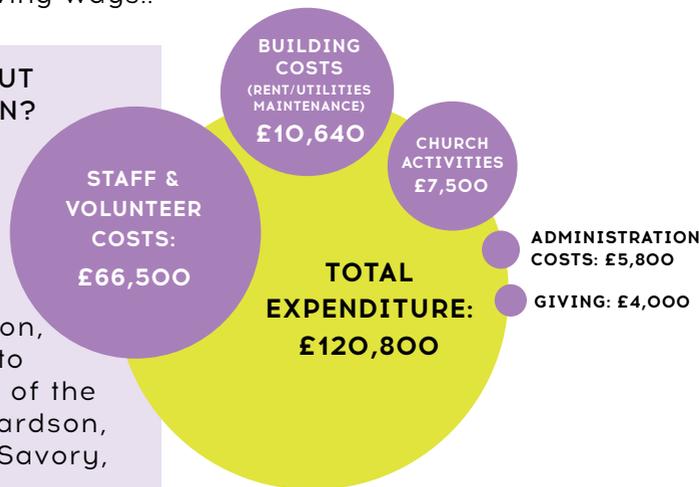
Please make sure you complete the River City Giving Form (this should be included in this pack, if not, please pick a form up from the Information Table).

### HOW IS THE MONEY INVESTED?

For 2022 the money given to the River City Church will be invested in the following ways::

#### HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

If you have any questions that haven't been answered here, or you wish to find out more information, then please speak to John Flavell or one of the trustees (Pete Richardson, Dave Maude, Luke Savory, Andrew Robinson).



# GIVING FINANCIALLY

## INFORMATION BOOKLET



## INTRODUCTION

At River City, we believe that giving financially is just one of the ways we worship God. We believe that it is God who gives us our talents, our possessions, our finances and our opportunities - and therefore we look to honour Him with them.

There is no obligation to give financially, and we believe that giving should always be out of a personal conviction that God wants His people to be generous and joyful givers.

Our desire to give is because God first gave to us. It is this which enables us to give generously, out of the realisation that God holds nothing back from us, even by giving His own son, Jesus.

We have produced this booklet to help you find out more information, to answer questions you may have, and to let you know how to give financially should you wish to do so. Your giving means that we can continue to invest as a family in the vision of the church, and make a greater impact in our city and around the world.

With love,

The River City Leadership Team and Trustees



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT GIVING?

Martin Luther said, 'Every Christian needs two conversions - one for his heart, and the other for his wallet.' Why? Jesus tells us that money is one of God's greatest rivals. He famously said, 'No man can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.' (Matthew 6:24)

A careful reading of the four Gospels reveals that Jesus said much more about money than he did about heaven. Twelve of his thirty-eight parables have to do with money. Why does Jesus have so much to say on this topic? Because what we do with our money reveals our hearts. What we do with our money really matters to God. This is what Paul is getting at in 2 Corinthians 8-9 where we have the largest teaching on giving in the New Testament.

Paul encouraged the Corinthian church to 'excel in the grace of giving.'(8:7) In this case he was

urging them to give to poorer Christians in another area of the world. He wanted them to support this leadership and vision in order to bring blessing to others.

He went on to say, 'I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others.'(8:8) He held up the Macedonian Christians who gave out of their poverty as an example of a people who had received the grace of God(8:1-5). Their giving revealed their hearts. Ultimately their hearts had been transformed by the grace of God.

Paul summarized this grace by saying: 'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.'(8:9)

Paul wanted the Corinthians to give in the same way as the Macedonians had. They had given joyfully and willingly (8:2) out of hearts that had been transformed by grace.

Paul would later say to the Corinthians: 'Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'(9:7)



## QUESTIONS ANSWERED

### WHY DO WE GIVE FINANCIALLY?

Why do we give financially? Giving is about more than money. Worship involves our whole lives, including our finances.

### HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

At River City we do not teach that everyone must tithe. The New Testament never tells us an 'amount' to give, and rather remarkably the tithe doesn't come up at all in the New Testament. Additionally if you added together all the different tithes in the Old Testament, it seems that the people of God gave away around 22-23% of their wealth - what a challenge!

So how much should we give? We are not given an amount, because the issue is the heart behind giving. Whilst many families and individuals give around 10% of their income, the precise amount you give is between you and God. The question is not one of equal giving, but sacrificial giving.

So as we approach giving, we have two questions. Firstly, will you give to support the leadership and vision of River City Church, as we look to reach out and bring blessing to the city of Hull? Secondly, will you give joyfully and willingly, even if you are in poverty like the Macedonian Church (8:2)?

'God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.'(9:8) As Paul urged the people of Israel to give what they were able to give but also to give willingly, joyfully and generously, may we do the same. Ultimately the heart with which we give from is more important than the amount, but the amount is still significant to God.

Finally, whatever you give, please give in secret (only those who manage the church finances will know) as our giving is ultimately to the Lord, that we may receive a reward in heaven. (Matthew 6:4)

May we excel in the grace of giving!