

In practical terms ...

The Church of Scotland encourages us to give in a committed way – either by using offering envelopes or by setting up a standing order from our bank accounts to our congregation's bank account.

The Church of Scotland encourages us, if we pay tax, to sign a Gift Aid Declaration. This increases the value of our offering by 25% as the congregation can reclaim the tax we have already paid on the money we are giving.

The Church of Scotland encourages us to consider making a gift to the Church in our Wills – either to our congregation, or to the work of one of the Councils and Committees of the General Assembly, e.g. Ministries, Social Care, World Mission. Over the years, legacies have provided much needed extra money for the work of the Church – local, national, global.

The National Stewardship Programme invites ALL OF US to REVIEW our giving and, if possible, INCREASE our offering to God for the work of his Church. Every congregation is expected to participate in this programme. Ask your elder or minister what will be happening in your congregation.

Living and loving God, you give us so much.

Living and loving God, the world needs what you have to give.

Help us to give generously to share the good news of your love through the worship, fellowship, outreach and service of your Church and make a real difference to the life of your world.

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Challenge TO THE Church

National Stewardship Programme

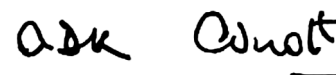
From the Rt Rev David Arnott,
Moderator of the General Assembly,
to all who are part of the Church of Scotland ...

I never cease to be amazed by the generosity of Church of Scotland members and regular worshippers. Over many years you have shown your gratitude to God and the extent of your faith by your continuing generosity. You have enabled your local congregation and the national church to keep on doing its job.

I do want to thank you on behalf of our church. Your givings help to maintain a strong church. Your own congregation helps to set the tone for the community where you live. It sets the tone by encouraging people to look beyond themselves in service to God; it helps to encourage the young and provide a role model; it cares for the vulnerable at every stage. Above all, it points people to a Lord who gave of himself so generously for the world.

Thank you for your continuing support and generosity. They, and you, are helping to make the church what it is.

Yours sincerely



A David K Arnott



The Church of Scotland
Stewardship and Finance

Why do we give?

- We give to say 'thank you' for God's gift of life in his world.
- We give to say 'thank you' for God's love day by day.
- We give to say 'thank you' to God for new life in Christ.
- We give to say 'thank you' to God for enriching our lives.
- We give to share all that we have received from God.
- We give to share the good news of God's love in Jesus.
- We give to share through the worship, fellowship, outreach and service of the Church.
- We give to maintain and develop church buildings as places for worship, fellowship, outreach and service.
- We give to provide ministers, deacons and other parish workers in all parts of Scotland.
- We give to provide resources for our parish church.
- We give to care for the most vulnerable in our society.
- We give to continue our partnership with Churches in some of the poorest parts of the world.
- We give to provide a Christian voice on the issues facing our society.
- We give to enrich the lives of individuals and communities, the life of Scotland and the life of the world.
- **Our giving makes a real difference!**

Our vision

The Church of Scotland seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities.

The Church of Scotland needs every member and adherent, everyone who is part of the Church, to give to fulfil this vision, which we believe is God's purpose for us today.

How should we give?

The people of ancient Israel brought the 'first fruits' of the harvest as an offering to God (*Deuteronomy 26: 1-11*).

■ **Our giving should be a priority in our spending.**

The people of ancient Israel and the people of Jesus' time were expected to give a tithe of their income as an offering to God (*Ezra 2: 69 and Acts 11: 27-30*).

■ **Our giving should be proportionate to our income.**

The poor widow put two small copper coins in the temple treasury (*Luke 21: 1-4*). She wasn't being mean: it was all the money she had – truly sacrificial giving.

■ **Our giving should be generous, even sacrificial.**

Jesus rebuked those who were selfish and unwilling to share their wealth (*Luke 12: 13-21*). The first Christians displayed a willingness to share – surrendering individual possessions for the common good (*Acts 2: 43-47 and 4: 32-37*) and helping to support poorer congregations (*2 Corinthians 8: 1-15*).

■ **Our giving should display our willingness to share what we have to fulfil God's purposes in his world.**