



Oughtibridge
Parish Church

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Giving Sunday 2026

Dear ,

Over recent years it's been wonderful to see a steady flow of people coming to faith in Jesus. Our termly courses for people looking into the Christian message are consistently well-attended and almost every Sunday we have newcomers and non-Christians attending church services.

Ultimately, this is the result of the activity of the Holy Spirit and we must praise him for it! But God also works through his people and so it's also an encouraging sign of a healthy church family that is living and speaking for Jesus, while working and praying for his Kingdom to come. We must pray that God keeps us committed to this great work of holding out the gospel in our day and continues to use it, for his glory.

At the same time, the good news of Jesus is not only something that *saves* people, it also *builds us up*. As Paul wrote,

*"Christ...is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching
everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present
everyone fully mature in Christ."*
(Colossians 1:28)

This is the great work that Oughtibridge Parish Church exists for – to both *make* and then *mature* disciples of Jesus Christ. It's this second aspect of our work that I believe we need to develop and grow, for the sake of the whole church, but especially those of us who are just beginning to walk with Jesus, "that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ".

Before going any further, I'd like to acknowledge that *many* people in our church family are making significant sacrifices in order to give generously towards this vision. Such generosity releases people and resources to serve the work of the gospel.

Since we're a church family – and all families discuss finances from time to time – and because giving is an important part of our discipleship, we ask the whole church family to review their giving once a year. So, may I invite you to read the rest of this letter, the booklet enclosed, and to commit some time to prayerfully consider how the Lord is calling you to respond?

As you do so, this is an appropriate moment for me to share with you that there is a significant need for our regular giving income to grow this year and each year up until 2030. This is

something the PCC and I are prayerfully trusting God about, but the need is not insignificant. If our giving income were to remain unchanged from its current level, we are projecting that our 'General Fund' would fall below our 'Reserves Policy' (3 months of operating costs) sometime in 2027. That would mean us being unable to afford to maintain our current ministry and staff team.

This is not an entirely unexpected situation. When we appointed an Associate Vicar in 2024, we knew that our giving income would need to grow over the following five years to sustain the role. It's also relevant that since June 2025 my own role as Vicar has become fully funded by OPC, having previously been subsidised by the Church of England.

How might we meet this need? We've calculated that if our giving income were to grow by 10% this year, and then by 9%, 8%, 7% and 6% in the following four years, we would be in a financially sustainable position. Currently 82 households give a regular gift to OPC. That means that...

a 10% growth in giving income this year would be achieved if *on average* each household were able to increase their giving by £15 per month (£180 per year).

Some won't be able to afford this, others may be able to afford more, and there may be those who aren't currently giving regularly who could begin to do so. But I hope this may be a helpful way of envisaging how the need might be met.

If you're not currently a regular giver, I hope that reading the enclosed booklet will be helpful and inspiring as you consider the role of giving in the Christian life. Please take to read it carefully and prayerfully. As you do so, there are several assurances it's important to hear, including this: our worth before God comes not from what we give to him, but from what he has already given for us – his Son Jesus. More on that in the booklet.

Whatever you decide about your giving, it would be a great help if you could complete the 'Giving Response Form' by **Sunday 7th June**. You can do that online, but we've also enclosed a paper version and return envelope for those who'd prefer that.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the finances of the church, please always feel free to be in touch with myself, one of the Church Wardens (Jo Brook and Adrian Little) or with the Treasurer (Andrew Shaw) and we'd be happy to discuss these things further.

Thank you for being part of this church family and all the Lord is doing among us.

Blessings,



Revd Chris Tufnell,
Vicar, Oughtibridge Parish Church.

GIVING

OUGHTIBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH



opc

Remember the words of the
Lord Jesus, how he himself said,
'It is more blessed to give than to
receive.'

Acts 20:35

Responding to our generous God

We believe in a generous God who has blessed us extravagantly with "every spiritual blessing in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). Through him, we've been forgiven, clothed in his righteousness, given his Holy Spirit and promised a wonderful future with him in a new and perfect world.

As Christians, our whole lives are to be lived in the light of these gospel realities. As the hymn goes,

"Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all"

Disciples of Jesus are called to whole-hearted and whole-of-life worship. That will be expressed through how we use our time, gifts and our financial resources.

If you're a Christian and a member of OPC, I'd like to invite you to consider your own financial giving as you read these pages. Our giving is not only part of our worship, it's also an opportunity to invest in something bigger than ourselves and which will last forever – advancing the kingdom of Jesus, in us and through us, for his glory.

It is a great joy to be part of a church family in which so many give so generously, sacrificially and cheerfully. Thank you for your partnership in the work of the gospel in this parish.

With love in Christ,
Chris Tufnell, Vicar



How your giving is helping make and mature disciples of Jesus

Over these next few pages, here's just a small glimpse of some of the ways God is using the generous giving of the church family here at OPC.

Sharing the message of Jesus



Over the last year, we've seen the Lord bring several people to saving faith, including Oli and Charlotte. They began joining us in October, came on the Christianity Explored course, and have put their trust in Jesus.

Each term we hold a course designed to help people looking into the Christian message. We also hold many other events for church family to invite friends to. Praise God that we're regularly seeing Him draw people to faith in Jesus through these courses.



It's been wonderful over the last year to see nine adults choose to be baptised or to renew their baptismal promises, with more people planning to do the same.

Growing young disciples



On Sundays we now typically have 40-60 children joining us to hear the message of Jesus and learn to live as his disciples. Since the refurbishment of the Chapel Auditorium in 2025, we've been able to launch an extra Sunday Club group to accommodate these growing numbers.

Investing in our youth

We're committed to investing in our youth to help them grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and to equip them for the future. Alongside Sundays, we run two youth small groups, Youth Extra, Young Leaders training through Kids Club, the Connect summer camp, year-round Re-Connect events and the annual Youth Getaway to Wales (below).



Reaching thousands through events



We run all sorts of regular and one-off events that reach thousands of people each year. Things like the Easter Egg Hunt, the Kids' Club, the Kids' Holiday Club, Women's events, Curry Nights, the Parent and Child groups and many more.

Releasing staff into gospel ministry

Our staff team is key in helping the church make and mature disciples of Jesus. In 2024, Michael joined us as our Associate Vicar, to serve alongside Chris (Vicar), Anna (Minister for Children, Youth and Families) and Rebecca (Administrator).



Following Michael's appointment, we've been able to launch an evening service, increase the frequency of evangelistic courses, and invest in new training and discipleship ministries.

Partnering in God's global mission



We commit 10% of our regular giving income to support mission partners like Panshak Panbish in Nigeria, Mark and Rebekah in South-East Asia, Galeed House reaching people in Sheffield from different faith backgrounds, and 'Arise Sheffield', a movement of prayer and mission.

A man with short brown hair, wearing a red sweater and dark jeans, stands at a black music stand in a church. He is speaking into a microphone, with his mouth open and hands slightly raised. Behind him is an altar with a blue and white cloth, a vase of yellow flowers, and three stained glass windows. The foreground is blurred, showing the back of a person's head.

Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets,
the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to
equip his people for works of service

Ephesians 4:11-12

Thinking about giving

You're valuable, whatever you give

Your value in the church is determined not by how much you give, but by how much has been given for you. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, he gave his one and only Son..." That tells you that you are incredibly precious, so we shouldn't give to try to increase our worth in the sight of God, ourselves or others.

The right reason to give

That same truth tells us what *should* motivate us to give. Our giving should be in grateful response to the extraordinarily generous love we've been shown by God through Jesus and out of a desire to worship him and see his kingdom grow. As we increasingly understand and believe that God the Father was willing to give us his Son and that Jesus was willing to give us his life on the cross, we will find our hands opening in generosity, gratitude and love. We will *want* to give to the one who has given us more than we could ever repay.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

How giving is good for you

Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). This is especially helpful because it works in two ways. Firstly, it diagnoses our hearts – you can tell what your heart is set on by looking at where your money is invested. But, secondly, it also helps us know how to redirect the desires of our hearts – our hearts follow our investments. As followers of Jesus, we often want to feel more committed to him and the growth of his kingdom. A powerful way to redirect our hearts towards his kingdom is to invest in his kingdom. As we do that, our grip on the things of this world will loosen and our hearts will be more and more captured by the things of eternity and the glory of Jesus. So, give what you want to give. But also consider giving what you *want* to want to give.





Command those who are rich in this present world...to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

1 Timothy 6:17-18

Deciding how much to give

A Priority: Giving of the first fruits

Right through the Bible we're told to give of our 'first fruits' – that is, the early produce from the harvest, not whatever's left over at the end (Proverbs 3:9). That means our giving to God should be a planned priority when budgeting, not an afterthought. It's also an expression of trust that he will provide all we need.

Proportionate: Should I tithe?

Tithing is a Biblical principle of giving 10% of our income to the church (Malachi 3:6-12, Leviticus 27:30), which Jesus affirmed (Luke 11:42). It's a good starting point, but we are told to be generous and to give "in keeping with your income" (1 Corinthians 16:2). So we shouldn't allow the principle of tithing to *restrict* our giving – for some, generosity will mean giving more than a tithe. Nor should we be *prescriptive* – for some, it may be appropriate to give less. Instead, we should each ask ourselves, "What would *radical generosity* look like for me?"

Private: Between you and God

Jesus said, "when you give... do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret" (Matthew 6:3-4). This helps protect our hearts from pride or seeking people's praise. So keep your giving between you and God (and your spouse, if you're married). For the same reason, only the church's finance team know what people give to the church, which they need to for administrative purposes.

A current need

Making our staff team financially sustainable



God has given pastors and teachers "to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...in the faith" (Ephesians 4:12). Our staff team's ministry includes equipping all of us for ministry to each other.

That's why most of our giving goes towards supporting our church staff to give themselves fully to gospel work.

Over the next few years, there is a significant need for our regular giving income to grow so that we can afford our staff team. This is needed for two main reasons:

1. Since June 2025, Chris Tufnell's role as Vicar is fully funded by OPC, having previously been subsidised by the CofE.
2. In 2023 the church family responded generously to our *Giving Sunday*, enabling the PCC to move ahead with the appointment of an Associate Vicar. However, this was always done in faith that this appointment would be part of how God continues to grow us as a church, such that the role would be financially sustainable beyond an initial 5-year term.

As a church, we don't have significant financial reserves and the need is now quite acute. So, we are asking the whole church family to seriously and prayerfully consider how God is leading each of us to respond to this need.

A young woman with brown hair tied back, wearing a beige puffer jacket over a black hoodie, is smiling and looking towards an older woman. The older woman, seen from the back, has short grey hair and is wearing a red jacket. They appear to be in a social setting, possibly a church event, with other people blurred in the background.

Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21

Oughtibridge Parish Church

Your response

Not giving yet?

Giving is an important part of Christian discipleship and worship. As such, it's good for us, even if it's a small amount (Mark 12:43). So if you're a member of the church, we encourage you to begin to give in a planned and regular way.

Please review your giving

If you're already a regular giver, thank you! We hope this booklet has encouraged you as you've seen how God is using your generosity to change lives and grow his kingdom.

Could we invite you to review your giving at least annually and consider what God is leading you to give?

Please keep in mind the significant challenge we face as a church and whether you might be part of how God will meet it. You might find it helpful to turn back two pages to reconsider the principles set out there.

For some, financial pressures might mean you need to revise your giving down – please be totally at peace about that.

Complete a Gift Aid form

If you are a UK taxpayer, we can reclaim 25% of your giving from HMRC. If that's the case, please complete a Gift Aid form at www.opc.org.uk/giftaid. Paper copies of this form are available at the back of the Parish Church.

Leaving a legacy

Leaving a legacy in your will can have a significant and lasting impact on the ministry of a church. If you would like to make arrangements to do this, please email treasurer@opc.org.uk.

How to give

Standing Orders

To help with administration and financial planning, it is really helpful if giving is done by standing order. Our church bank account details are below. You can set up or change a standing order via online banking or by speaking to your bank. Contact the treasurer if you're having difficulty doing this.

Whatever you decide about your giving, please communicate that to the Treasurer by returning the Giving Sunday Response Form (online or paper) or by emailing treasurer@opc.org.uk.

For the Giving Response Form, scan the QR code or visit www.opc.org.uk/givingresponse

Account name: Oughtibridge PCC

Account number: 00033707

Sort code: 40-52-40





Now, our God, we give you
thanks, and praise your glorious
name... Everything comes from
you, and we have given you only
what comes from your hand.

1 Chronicles 29:13–14

Your Response Forms

Overleaf are two forms:

1. Giving Response Form
2. Gift Aid Form

- If you are happy to complete these forms online, that would be administratively helpful to us – please use the links below.
- But if you would prefer to use the paper form, feel free to do so.

Giving Response Form

Please return your Giving Response Form by
Sunday 7th June 2026

Visit www.opc.org.uk/givingresponse
Or scan the QR code opposite
Or complete the form overleaf



Gift Aid Form

Can we claim Gift Aid on your donations?
If so, you can boost your donation by
25p for every £1 you give, at no cost to you!

Visit www.opc.org.uk/giftaid
Or scan the QR code opposite
Or complete the form overleaf



Giving Response Form 2026



Oughtibridge
Parish Church

We're asking every member of OPC to review their giving and then complete and return this form by **Sunday 7th June**. Please could you do this, even if you're making no change, so we can assess how many people have engaged with this process? Thank you!

Full name(s)

I/We have reviewed my/our giving and have decided to:

- ☐ Change my/our regular giving to £ per month.
 - ☐ Start giving regularly for the first time at the level of £ per month.
 - ☐ Leave my/our giving unchanged at £ per month.
-

If you either have, or intend to, complete a Gift Aid form to apply to your giving, please tick here: ☐

If you would like to discuss any other giving arrangements with the church treasurer (Andrew Shaw), such as a one-off gift of leaving a legacy in your will, please tick the box below.

- ☐ I/We would like the treasurer to get in contact to discuss my/our giving arrangements.
-

Please return this form to our treasurer in the envelope provided, by **Sunday 7th June 2026**.

Envelopes can be returned midweek via the Vicarage, or on Sundays, using the box marked 'Giving Response Forms' at the back of the Parish Church.

You can contact the treasurer directly at treasurer@opc.org.uk.

Thank you.

Gift Aid Form

If you are a UK taxpayer and eligible to Gift Aid your donation, please complete this form and return it to treasurer@opc.org.uk or in person on Sundays. Thank you.

Gift Aid Declaration

I want to Gift Aid:
(please tick ONE OR BOTH boxes, as appropriate)

- ☐ all my donations from the last 4 years
- ☐ all my future donations from the date of this declaration

to the PCC of Oughtibridge Parish Church. 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.

My Details

Title		First name (required)	
Surname			
Address			
Postcode			
Signature		Date	

Notes

1. Please notify the church/PCC if you:
 - Want to cancel this declaration Change your name or home address No
 - longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. Gift Aid is
 - linked to basic rate tax, currently 20 %, which allows charities to reclaim 25p for every £1 donated.
2. 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 donation on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.