

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP IN

THE METHODIST CHURCH?

# Stewardship

God calls us to be good stewards of all we are given ~ creation, relationships, our bodies, our talents, money and other material gifts of all sort. Ideas and resources to support your stewardship efforts are here with a special emphasis on financial stewardship and the message that **together we do more.**

## What is stewardship all about?

God has given us so much: life itself, a beautiful planet, energy, gifts and talents, family and loved ones, not to mention our work, interests and possessions. In addition, of course, he has given us the greatest gift of all – himself – through Jesus, in the power of the Spirit. God's lavish grace is truly amazing.

**Stewardship** is one way we can respond to the amazing generosity and goodness of God. You might wonder what on earth we can give back to God. But we can give him:

Ourselves in worship, by who we are and what we do with our lives, day by day;  
Our gifts, talents and time, in serving him and others;  
And our money and material possessions, for the work of his kingdom and the relief of others in need.

So giving of our material wealth is an important part of being a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a joyful and liberating thing to do.

Why is stewardship of our money so important? Jesus taught us more about our attitude to money and the right use of it than about any other subject except the Kingdom of God. He challenged us as to what is more important to us – our love of God or our life in this world? He said, "You cannot serve both God and money" ~ Matthew 6:24. Money is therefore a deeply spiritual issue, and an integral part of our worship of God. Developing the habit of regularly giving money to God is the best way of putting it in its place, and making sure that God comes first in our lives. It also enables God's kingdom to grow, and his love to be shown to his children in need around the world.

At **Third Avenue Church** we are dependent on tithes and donations to keep running. We fortunately have some long term renters but this income does not cover our outgoings. In 2021-22 we have to pay **£54,000** to the North Kent Methodist Circuit as our yearly Financial Assessment, as well as utility bills and maintenance of our buildings.

After 18 months of the pandemic our finances, as many individuals and charities are severely limited.

There are several ways in which you can give financially to Third Avenue Church...

The best way for the Church is by **standing order** where our bank does not charge us at all. We do not have a form, you just set tithes up electronically from your account or I'm sure your bank would be able to help.

Our bank details are:

Account Name	<b>Gillingham Methodist Church</b>
Bank Name	<b>Charities Foundation Bank</b>
Account Number	<b>00024956</b>
Sort Code	<b>40-52-40</b>

Our bank now charges us to bank cheques and cash so if you give in these formats Third Avenue may not receive 100% of your donation. However if you wish to continue to use cash or cheques we still have an **envelope scheme** available for you to use. I'm very happy to chat to anyone about this.

We are also in the process of setting up a **contactless payment** device in the foyer to facilitate another giving alternative ~ watch this space!

If you are a UK Tax payer then please consider making Gift Aiding your donation. Please fill in the form below and return to the myself or a steward.

If you have any questions or would like to chat about this please let me know via email on: [treasurer@gillinghammethodists.uk](mailto:treasurer@gillinghammethodists.uk). Details can also be found on our website: [gillinghammethodists.uk](http://gillinghammethodists.uk)

**Carol Waldock** | Treasurer

Please tick the box and fill in the form

**Yes I am a UK Tax Payer**   
**and I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference**

Name	_____
Full Address & postcode	_____ _____ _____