

Freewill Offering

In common with all C of E Churches, St. Laurence relies on the generosity of people within the Parish to provide the income necessary to pay for the work of the Anglican Church locally, nationally and internationally throughout the world.

There are several methods available for people to make their offerings. These are:

- a) Freewill Offering Envelopes
- b) Bank Standing Orders
- c) One-off Gifts
- d) Open Plate Collection

Freewill Offering Envelopes

This is the traditional method of providing offerings in which the donor is provided with a set of offering envelopes in which there is one envelope for each Sunday of the year. Donors put their offering inside the envelope and place the envelope into the collection bag. Each set of envelopes has a number printed on it so that the amount inside can be recorded against the envelope number. It is a necessary condition imposed by HM Revenue and Customs before the Church can recover Gift Aid that the donors can be identified with the amounts given and hence the amount of Gift Aid claimed. Only the Freewill Offering Recorder has the information to link donors' names to the envelope numbers. If anyone not already using the Freewill Envelope Scheme would like a set of envelopes, please contact freewill@stlaurence.co.uk.

Bank Standing Orders

This has become the most popular methods of giving and is especially suitable for donors unable to attend worship regularly but who, nonetheless, would like to support the Church's work. This is simply done by completing a standing order form and, in the case of tax-payers, a Declaration Form. These forms can be found within the Documents Section and again confidentiality is imposed by the information regarding givings by standing order being restricted to the Gift Aid Recorder. For further information please contact freewill@stlaurence.co.uk.

One-off Gifts

As the name implies, all one-off gifts are always welcome and again can benefit from Gift Aid.

Open Plate Collection

As the collection bags are passed round, the congregation is able to drop their offering into the bag, either a Freewill Envelope or cash on its own. All loose cash is known as Open Plate and under new rules, gifts of £20 or less are also able to be enhanced by 25%.

Gift Aid

Gift Aid is a Government scheme available to charities which enables them to recover income tax on donations deemed to have been paid by the donor at the basic rate. This tax recovery can only be made on offerings recorded against individual donors who pay sufficient tax to cover it and therefore offerings by Freewill Envelope and Standing Order are recorded against the donor. As stated above, this information is confidential to the Freewill Offering Recorder.

The effect of Gift Aid is to increase the individual offering by 25% at no additional cost to the donor. In fact, for donors who pay income tax at the higher rate, Gift Aid provides a method of saving some income tax as the donor's basic rate income tax band is increased by the value of the annual offering provided.

Thank you to all who contribute in any way to our income