**The Two Rivers Mission Community**

**Generosity – sermon 2**

**Giving generously to your local church**

**Handout**

*Epistle reading: 2 Corinthians 8.1-15*

*Gospel reading: Matthew 6.25-34*

**A biblical foundation**

In the Old Testament God’s people tithed to the tabernacle and temple to resource the worship of the community (Leviticus 27.30; Numbers 18:21-24)

The early church laid offerings at the feet of the apostles (Acts 4.34-37)

Paul: Gospel workers deserve financial support

**History**

As Anglicans we’ve been used to having our local churches paid for by historic assets. We can’t rely on that anymore.

As local Christians we have to step up and provide the resources our church needs to maintain its ministry.

**How should we go about giving to our local church?**

2 Corinthians 8 & 9

1. Give in response to God’s love: 2 Corinthians 8.9
2. Give generously: 2 Corinthians 9.6
3. Give joyfully: 2 Corinthians 9.7
4. Give in a planned way: 2 Corinthians 9.7
5. Give out of what you have, not what you don’t: 2 Corinthians 8.12

Should we tithe?

Not under Law, but maybe 10% is a good guide

**If we all gave realistically, what could we do as local churches?**

**Conclusion – living to see God’s kingdom**

Jesus taught his followers not to worry but to seek his kingdom ahead of anything else (Matthew 6.31-32)

**Questions to ponder**

* What would not worrying, but ‘seeking first the kingdom of God’ look like for you?
* If our churches were to worry less and pursue God’s kingdom, how might our churches look different?
* What in 2 Corinthians 8-9 caught your attention? What might you need to take on board?
* If your church’s income doubled next year, what might your church spend the money on?

**Prayer**

Father God,

Your Son, Jesus, asked what good it is for a man to gain the world, but lose his soul?

Please help us to seek your kingdom above all things, trusting that you will look after us.

So may we generously give our time, our abilities and our money in things of eternal value.

In Jesus name,

Amen.

**How to give to your church**

* Ask your treasurer or Rev Gary for your church bank account details and set up a regular payment or make a one-off gift.
* Find your church on <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/> and set up a regular payment or make a one-off gift.
* If you pay sufficient tax, sign a gift aid form, so your treasurer can reclaim gift aid on your donation