

# The Target 5% Challenge



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## **During 2019 we're inviting every church member to commit to take the *Target 5% Challenge***

### **Why are we doing this?**

The *Target 5% Challenge* is an opportunity for each one of us to commit ourselves financially to our parish vision of *extending God's welcome to everyone*. In order to achieve this vision, there are four priorities which we need to focus on over the next 3 to 5 years:

- ❖ Integrating newcomers
- ❖ Identifying leaders
- ❖ Increasing worship opportunities
- ❖ Investing in our facilities

**Integrating newcomers:** This is all about welcoming new people into our church family and helping them to explore faith and grow in their relationship with God.

**Identifying leaders:** This is about recruiting new church leaders and training existing ones to oversee the various aspects of our parish life. Some of our church leaders will be serving voluntarily and others will be part of a staff team, but both will be doing what God has called them to do.

**Increasing worship opportunities:** This is about providing a variety of opportunities to gather together at various times throughout the week to worship God and to deepen our faith.

**Investing in our facilities:** We have been blessed with a beautiful church building as well as a hall and hut. As we seek to resource our mission these will need to be maintained and developed appropriately.

## What does this look like for 2019-2023?

- ❖ Run Alpha Course
- ❖ Run Parenting Course
- ❖ Run Children's Events
- ❖ Coffee Mornings
- ❖ Run Messy Vintage
- ❖ Run a seniors' activity weekend
- ❖ Run events for Men's Ministry
- ❖ Recruit a Family Worker
- ❖ Recruit a Director of Music
- ❖ Launch Baby and Toddler Group
- ❖ Annual Maintenance Schedule
- ❖ Redevelop Church Hall - create office space, repair roof, reseal floor, create storage facilities, improve the kitchen, replace the toilets.

## What is the *Target 5% Challenge*?

The challenge is for members of our church family to make the following commitment:

***By 2023 I will be giving 5% of my income to support the St John's vision***

Along with the Church of England nationally, we are encouraging all church members to set the target of giving 5% of their income to and through the church.

Weekly income	1%	5%	Monthly income	1%	5%
£100	£1	£5	£1000	£10	£50
£150	£1.50	£7.50	£1500	£15	£75
£250	£2.50	£12.50	£2500	£25	£125
£350	£3.50	£17.50	£3500	£35	£175

Each of our situations are unique. Many of us are already giving regularly through a standing order or the envelope scheme. In this case the *Target 5% Challenge* is an opportunity to consider whether you can increase what you are already giving. For those who do not others this is an invitation to begin supporting our parish vision by giving regularly to St John's. The reason for a five-year challenge is simply to provide the option of giving 1% in 2019, 2% in 2020, 3% in 2021, 4% in 2022 so that in 2023 you are giving 5%.

Not only is the *Target 5% Challenge* an opportunity to commit yourself to our parish vision financially, it is also an invitation to grow in your Christian discipleship and develop an attitude to giving that is prayerful, planned, and a priority.

**Prayerful giving:** Without prayer at the heart of our giving we risk separating money from our Christian discipleship. Thinking, talking and acting well around money is a natural part church life. The church at Corinth was proud of its spiritual gifts. Paul knew and valued them but was keen that they should add financial generosity to this list of spiritual gifts. He writes, 'Just as you excel in all things - in faith, speech, knowledge...so we want you to excel also in this grace of giving' (2 Cor 8:7). For Paul giving was not fundraising but the outworking of grace.

**Planned giving:** Planning our giving is more than how we give our gift; it is about *being intentional* in our giving rather than reacting to appeals or circumstances. Paul advised setting aside our gifts to God as part of the journey to generous giving (1 Cor. 16:2). Regular, planned giving helps us do the same. The generosity to which we are called in Christ cannot be achieved if we are not disciplined and intentional about our giving.

**Prioritising giving:** Prayerfully planned giving reflects the intention of making giving a priority and as such it becomes 'a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given' (2 Cor. 9:5). It is also an expression of a thankful heart for the generous grace which God has lavished upon each one of us: '*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich*' (2 Cor. 8:9). Within this context practising financial generosity reflects our being caught up in the flow of God's gracious giving.

## -----MY GIVING RESPONSE -----

Please return this by either placing it in the collection plate or handing it to our treasurer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to join the envelope scheme (*please contact me*)

I will set up a **new** weekly / monthly standing order of

- £5
- £10
- £15
- £20
- other £ \_\_\_\_\_

I will increase my **existing** weekly / monthly / annual giving by:

- £5
- £10
- £15
- £20
- other £ \_\_\_\_\_

- Please contact me to arrange this.
- I will arrange it myself / complete the standing order form.

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-----**STANDING ORDER FORM**-----

To the Manager of *(your bank or building society)*:

Name of Bank: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Bank: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode of Bank: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay to: PCC of St John the Divine Standing Orders A/C, Lloyds  
Bank Sort Code 30-90-16, Account No: 01004321

*(If increasing your giving please add this to your existing giving  
amount and include the total in the space below)*

The sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ every week / month / year\*

*(\*delete as applicable)*

Starting on (DD/MM/YY): \_\_\_\_\_

From my account no: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort Code: \_\_\_\_\_

The account name is: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*This replaces any previous standing order for my church*