

Giving at



Dewsbury

ELIM CHURCH



A GUIDE TO

GIVING

AT

DEWSBURY

ELIM

CHURCH

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Dewsbury Elim Church is a member of the Elim Pentecostal Churches, registered charity 251549.

1. LEGAL & FINANCIAL STRUCTURE



As an Elim Church, Dewsbury Elim Church operates under the overarching charity of Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance (charity number 251549). Dewsbury Elim Church is not a charity in its own right, but functions as a Not for Profit Unincorporated Community Organisation.

Dewsbury Elim Church pays a monthly tithe of 10% of all unrestricted and undesignated giving to Elim HQ. This helps to pay for the central services of Elim as a movement.

The Pastors of Dewsbury Elim Church are Office Holders within the local church. They are employed by Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance, although the costs of employing the Pastors are the responsibility of and paid for by the local church. A recommended centralised pay structure exists, and is reviewed on a yearly basis. Dewsbury Elim Church endeavours to adhere to this structure, if it is affordable.

The church building is owned by Elim Trust Corporation as a Property Trustee for Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance.

The building is stewarded locally by Dewsbury Elim Church, who are responsible for all maintenance and upkeep of the building and land.

2.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES TO GIVING



When considering Christian giving, the term 'tithe' is often referred to, and has its origins in the ancient Hebrew concept of giving one tenth of one's possessions or wealth as an offering to God. This can be seen in the following passages:

Genesis 14:19-20 - Abram gives a tenth of everything he had to the priest Melchizedek after rescuing Lot.

Genesis 28:20-22 - Jacob makes a vow to give God a tenth of everything he has if God watches over him on his journey.

Leviticus 27:30-34 - A tithe of everything from the land and every herd and flock belongs to God and is holy to the Lord.

In his short book *The Grace of Giving*, John Stott takes us through the two chapters of 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, and points us to ten helpful principles of Christian giving which we can consider:

2 Corinthians 8:1-6

Christian giving is an expression of the grace of God

2 Corinthians 8:7

Christian giving can be a charisma, a gift of the Spirit

2 Corinthians 8:8-9

Christian giving is inspired by the cross of Christ

2 Corinthians 8:10-12

Christian giving is proportionate giving

2 Corinthians 8:13-15

Christian giving contributes to equality

2 Corinthians 8:16-24

Christian giving must be carefully supervised

2 Corinthians 9:1-5

Christian giving can be stimulated by a little friendly competition

2 Corinthians 9:6-11a

Christian giving resembles a harvest

2 Corinthians 9:11b-15

Christian giving has symbolic significance

2 Corinthians 9:11b-15

Again, Christian giving promotes thanksgiving to God

In addition, Mark 12 also points us to some very helpful principles:

Mark 12:13-17

God isn't concerned with the *amount* of our giving; He's concerned with the *cost* of our giving

Mark 12:41-44

Our financial giving is just as much an act of worship as our singing

3.

OUR APPROACH TO GIVING



If, and how much you decide to give to the church is solely between you and God. The church will administer what you give, and will not chase you for your giving.

We endeavour to ensure that giving to the church is as confidential as possible. When individuals give by Standing Order or through the Gift Aid Scheme, the Treasurer is the only person who is able to identify how much an individual gives. The only exception to this is if an individual gives by cheque, as the volunteer counters will need to record this and pay the cheque in at the bank. The Pastors do not know the level of an individual's giving.

The church's finances are overseen by the Treasurer and the Lead Pastor, with the additional support of the Leadership Team. The Treasurer administers the church's finances, although financial decision-making is a shared responsibility of the whole Leadership Team.

As a church, we endeavour to keep the church members aware of our finances, including the levels of giving, and how the finances are spent.

4.

STEPS IN GIVING



We all go on a personal journey in our Christian discipleship, and how we give is one part of that journey. The steps below represent some of the common stages that you could find yourself experiencing.

Step 1 - Survival

"I give a bit when I'm asked because the church ought to be there in case I need it."

The need is survival and there's a chance that the church might help. The relationship with the church is that I know it's there if I need it - all being well, I won't!

Step 2 - Supermarket

"I'm happy to pay towards the cost of the bits of the church that I want and enjoy."

The need is safety and by treating the church on my terms I feel safe and unchallenged. I see myself as a customer.

Step 3 - Support

"The work of the Church is important and so I'll support it."

I have a need for belonging. I see myself as a member of the supporters' club.

Step 4 - Subscription

"I see myself as a member and I wish to contribute to my fair share of the costs."

The need is identity - I'm recognised and I'm playing my part.

Step 5 - Submission

"My understanding of being a disciple is that I should put God first in my life. "

I see a deeper meaning in life and my giving responds to God and not just the needs of the Church.

Step 6 - Sacrifice

"My Christian calling is to be Christ-like and so naturally I give joyfully and sacrificially - following Christ."

I give sacrificially and joyfully as an expression of my worship to God.

5.

PRACTICAL WAYS TO GIVE



These ten points set out how you can give to the work of Dewsbury Elim Church.

1. **Whatever you decide to give, giving regularly helps the church to budget and to plan.**
A consistent income helps us fulfil our obligations of wanting to be a good employer of our staff, good stewards of our building, and helps us plan for the future.
2. **There are currently three different methods of giving that the church operates:**
 - a. Collection Bags during the service
 - b. Standing Order
 - c. Givt App

3. If you're a UK Tax Payer, you can maximise your giving by registering for the Gift Aid Scheme.

If you're a standard rate tax payer, we can claim back an additional 25% of everything you give e.g. if you give £100, the government will give us an additional £25, resulting in the church receiving £125. If you're a higher rate tax payer, this amount increases to 40% of everything you give.

To register for the Gift Aid Scheme:

- a. Please complete a Gift Aid Declaration Form (attached), and return this to the Treasurer. You can then choose to give either by Standing Order, or to use the Brown Envelope Scheme, through the Collection Bags during the service.
- b. If your circumstances change, and you no longer pay sufficient tax in the year, it is important that you inform the Treasurer, so that you can remove yourself from the Scheme.

4. Please consider giving by Standing Order

This is when you instruct your Bank to make a regular payment to the church of an amount set by yourself, no matter how small that amount. Giving by Standing Order has a number of benefits:

- a. It's easier for you:
 - i. The amount is automatically debited from your account
 - ii. You don't have to remember to give
 - iii. You don't have to carry cash or a cheque book
- b. It's easier for the church:
 - i. The amount is automatically credited to our account

- ii. It minimises the administration needed by the church's volunteer finance team
- iii. It minimises the amount of cash needed to be carried to the bank

5. If you believe that you have a Standing Order in place, please check that it is still active, and is set up for the amount you were expecting.

6. Please consider reviewing your giving at least once a year, or around any significant life events.

7. Givt App

This is a free app for your smartphone which enables you to give additionally, spontaneously, and touch-free. See www.givtapp.net/en-gb for more information, or scan the QR code.



8. Designated Additional Giving

Every now and again, individuals may wish to give a gift for a specific purpose in the life of the church, above and beyond their regular giving. If you wish to find out more, please speak to the Treasurer, who can discuss how best to do this, and how the church can best honour your gift. A decision to accept a Designated Additional Gift will be made by the Leadership Team. There may be an occasion where a Designated Additional Gift is not able to be accepted, and in this instance, this will be communicated to the potential giver along with the reason for the decision.

9. Leaving a Legacy Gift in your Will

Occasionally, an individual may wish to leave a Legacy Gift to the church in their Will. If you wish to find out more, please speak to the Treasurer. Due to the church's relationship to Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance, this needs to be handled through Elim HQ, and the Treasurer can support you to set this up.

10. Leaving Dewsbury Elim Church

If the time comes for you to leave Dewsbury Elim Church and move on to another congregation, please let us know. If you are registered for the Gift Aid Scheme, please let the Treasurer know so that we can then discontinue your registration.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the
Treasurer (giving@dewsburyelim.org.uk), who will be
happy to help.



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