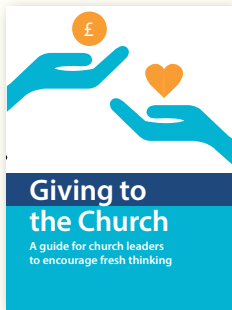


How much should I give?

We are looking to encourage 'giving with grace' rather than being prescriptive. However, on several occasions General Assembly has suggested that giving 5% of after tax income is a useful benchmark. If you are interested in further exploring this question, either as an individual, or in small groups, then there are two useful booklets on the stewardship pages (see bit.ly/urcsteward) of the URC website: *To tithe or not to tithe* and *Giving to the Church*.



What next?

Aside from churches and individuals making use of the stewardship booklets highlighted above, you might be interested to learn that the planned materials for Walking the Way will include an exploration of 'giving' as a core habit of Christian discipleship.

Any questions?

We hope that, on reading this, you feel proud to be part of the URC family – of this community of disciples who believe that money is to be given where it is needed, to best serve our communal needs. If you have any questions on what you have read in this leaflet, or would like to give us more general feedback, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Ian Hardie, URC Treasurer, or John Samson, the Chief Finance Officer, by contacting Bea Minta in the Church House finance office on 020 7916 8644 or at beatrice.minta@urc.org.uk



Further resources on stewardship are available at: www.urc.org.uk/stewardship

Produced by the URC's communications department on behalf of the finance committee, June 2017



**Celebrating
what we
achieve together**

Thank you for all that you give

Thank you

Thank you for all that you give. For the time, the love and the money that is poured into local United Reformed churches week by week. Without the resources that are generously provided by you and the rest of the church family, the life of the local – and the central – United Reformed Church could not continue to operate and serve as it now does. Thank you.

The URC may be a relatively small Church, but its achievements – both locally and nationally – are substantial. We are ‘punching above our weight’ in many areas, not least in our commitment to social justice, illustrated through the work of the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) in areas as diverse as foodbanks, housing and refugees; the continuing innovation of the church related community work (CRCW) programme; large scale events like The Big Day Out and the URC’s associate partnership in the Greenbelt festival as well as initiatives like the celebration of Constance Coltman’s centenary and Walking the Way¹. Alongside all these high profile success stories is the support of local churches, not least through funding the stipends of ministers and ensuring they are assured of reliable pensions and adequate housing in retirement. And, in addition to these things, we also invest in the long-term future of individuals – from training our ordained ministers and lay preachers to giving advice to new church treasurers.



The Big Day Out 2017, Warwick Castle

¹ Walking the Way is the umbrella term for the United Reformed Church’s focus on lifelong Christian discipleship and mission



Greenbelt festival

The above list gives an idea of the many things the URC is involved in – there’s too many to list here – but all were started as a recognition and outworking of God’s never-ending grace to us; all came to fruition knowing that they would benefit some, but not all, and all were made possible because of the time and money you give to the URC’s work in mission and ministry. Thank you again.

The URC is a big family, and like a family, it’s at its best when it works together, everyone playing their part by working to their strengths and giving what and when they can. Not everything your money is used for will directly benefit you; and some expenditure won’t even appeal to you. But that’s the way it is with families – we seek to express our unity, our love for one another and our mutual commitment by supporting each other’s interests.

The basis of your gifts

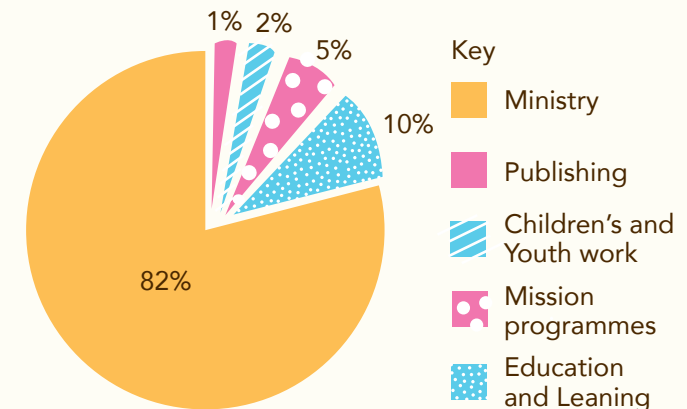
Love and time are vital for the family life of the Church – but so is money. And it’s money that this leaflet focuses on. In the URC, part of the money that you give, week by week, month by month, is sent to the national finance team working out of Church House, and added to the ministry and mission fund (better known as ‘M&M’). Most of what the Church achieves in terms of mission and ministry is paid for from this fund.

Through the giving of each church member, local congregations contribute to the M&M fund according to their ability to pay. The ministry that is available and affordable is allocated across the synods and then deployed within the Synods according to mission priorities. This covenant together is certainly very different from a consumer model, where the rich can always have more than those with more limited resources. We believe that it is important that all are willing to share. The URC’s adoption of this approach means that not only do we express our support for each other through M&M, but everyone can truly celebrate all that the denomination achieves – because it has been achieved together.

How do we spend our money?

In 2016 local churches gave a total of £19.3m to the M&M fund. The consistency and faithfulness of this giving is greatly appreciated. The broad areas of spending are shown in the pie chart.

URC expenditure 2016 – £21.1m



If you would like more information on what the M&M money was spent on, please speak to your local church treasurer, who has been sent more detailed figures.