

## Growth

At St Columba's we have been gearing for growth. We want to have a strong church that can send out core teams to start new churches in the city. A strong city centre church like ours also has a wonderful opportunity to influence our younger generation, train up future leaders and model a community of believers that is both diverse and united in Christ.

We recognise that a growing church needs to be well resourced in order to become strong. By God's grace, as we flourish, we can then be much more influential in helping to plant other churches, and support wider church work within our own denomination and further afield.

We are privileged to have you in the congregation. Every single person is part of the family here and each plays an important role. Some may have a more public role, but it is often the quiet unseen works of grace that are equally, if not more, important.

We want to challenge everyone to consider (if they haven't already!) a financial sacrifice for the Gospel work through St Columba's to the tune of at least a tenth of their income.. A Tenth for Strength!

## Why a tenth?

The New Testament doesn't deal in hard numbers when it comes to your financial support of Gospel work, but it does give important principles about how to give:

Generously (Romans 12 v 8) Regularly (1 Corinthians 16 v 2) Cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9 v 6-7), Proportionally (Acts 11 v 29) and Sacrificially (2 Corinthians 8 v 3)

All of this helps us to remember that God gives us every good gift (James 1 v17) - 100% of what we have! It is also a reflection of our understanding of the gift of Grace given to us in Christ and a reminder of His amazing generosity to us in Salvation (2 Corinthians 8 v 9). He was rich, yet he became poor.

The Old Testament church was commanded to give a tenth. We are no longer in the Old Testament times, but with Grace in our hearts, we have the motivation to give that and more. Our giving should never be legalistic, as if the rest of our money will then be wholly our own. In reality - it is all His gift to us, to be used wisely, but a tenth seems a good starting point!

## Will it make a difference?

Yes! We are looking for our ordinary income each year to increase so that we can fund Gospel workers and help resource growth. This money will be used primarily to fund ministers, Gospel workers, apprentices, training, mission support, and central funding for denominational work as well as helping with the day to day running of the church and its administration.

## Crunching numbers

Last year, the ordinary regular income of the church that was received from individuals connected with the congregation was around £100,000.

As an interesting challenge, if we were to assume roughly 70 wage earners in the congregation, (there are probably more) and if we were to take the national average wage (£27,000 - ONS Annual Salary Survey 2014) and gave a tenth of that, then the ordinary regular income for the church would be £189,000 (gross) or based on the take home salary of £21,000, the figure would be £147,000 (net).

We could fund more Gospel work!

## The Challenge

Please pray about this. Giving financially for Gospel work is an important way of demonstrating your love and commitment to His Work, He has placed you here for a reason. You are important to Him and to us. All your gifts and graces for the Kingdom matter. You can make a difference.

These are exciting and challenging days. As a starting point, will you consider giving... a Tenth for Strength.

## Practicalities

To give regularly, you can set up a Standing Order. Forms are available at church, or you can contact our Treasurer, Donna Macleod (finance@stcsfc.org).

If you pay tax on your earnings, and you also fill in a Gift Aid form, then St Columba's can claim an extra 25% of your donation from HMRC.