

PUTTING FAITH IN HARLOW

**Nobody is
going to tell
me how much
to give**

Quite Right!

St. Paul's Harlow Town Centre with St. Mary's Little Parndon

Registered Charity 1142836

£5 per week?

£10 per week?

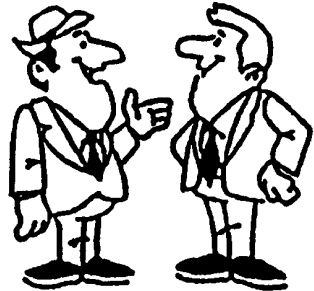
£20 per week?

"You're joking"



No, seriously. Unless the money gift has cost something it is not a thanksgiving, but more likely a tip - part of what is left by Sunday!

"Surely it would be fairer if we all gave the same amount, say £1 per week?"



No. Those who are working are not all paid the same wage. Unemployed people, one-parent families, couples where only one attends church, and pensioners are different again. No two people are exactly the same.



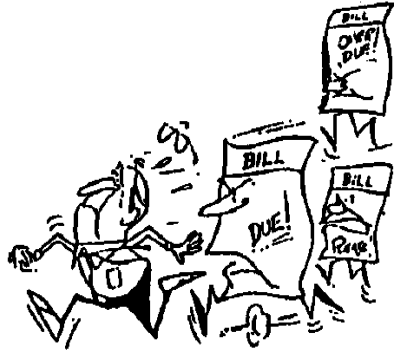
"That's true. Then what guidelines can you give?"

The Old Testament says a tithe (one tenth) of the harvest. Many Christians today do give a tenth of their income after tax-.

The New Testament teaching is for each one of us deliberately to set aside money for God each week in proportion to income received, in thankfulness for all his gifts.

How about the first hour's pay, before any deductions? This is a basic standard from which to work upwards. In this way life and work are dedicated to God and God comes first in the planning of the budget.

*That's all very well,
what about the other
essentials, like rates,
rent, mortgage or
heating?"*



True, there are essentials on the budget outgoings, some of which can be controlled, others not. The real tension lies in whether Christians live their lives and give God the odd tip, or whether they give to God first and then manage on the rest.

Those who do the first will never be satisfied; those who do the second will always have enough.

So, in summary, all Christians should try to put their money gift to God at the top of their budget, and learn the importance of regular committed giving of money, so that the mission of the Church can grow.