

## Introducing the Offering

As part of an introduction to the offering, it's good to explain what will happen, particularly if there are visitors in church to avoid them being caught unawares. You might say something like:

During our next hymn, an offering will be received. This helps to resource the ministry of this and other churches, and also provides us an opportunity to symbolise the offering of ourselves by the offering of money. If you do not wish to contribute, just let the bag pass by. Many members arrange their giving via standing orders, so will not be putting anything in the bag.

You might then finish the introduction with a sentence of scripture or a quote:

- 'From what you have take an offering for the Lord. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the Lord and offering of gold, silver and bronze.' (*Exodus 35:5*)
- 'The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.' (*Proverbs 22:9*)
- 'But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.' (*1 Chronicles 29:14*)
- 'But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.' (*Matthew 6:3*)
- 'But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' (*Matthew 6:19-21*)
- 'None can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will devote to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.' (*Matthew 6:24*)
- 'All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.' (*Acts 2:44,45*)
- 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 though his poverty might become rich.' (*2 Corinthians 8:8,9*)
- 'Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant, not to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.' (*1 Timothy 6:17*)
- 'Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said 'never will I leave you never will I forsake you.' (*Hebrews 13:5*)
- "You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you." (*John Bunyan*)
- "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving" (*Mother Teresa*)
- "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do." (*Edward Everett Hale*)
- "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give" (*Winston Churchill*).