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GiftAid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to GiftAid your donation you need to complete the form on the back and send it to the church office (or complete the form available from www.mrc-oxford.org/giving)

Please notify the Magdalen Road Church if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self -Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Magdalen Road Church

Charity Gift Aid Declaration

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Magdalen Road Evangelical Free Church.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details

Title _____

First name or initial(s) _____

Surname _____

Full Home address _____

Postcode _____

Date _____

Please tear off this completed form and send it to the church office:

Magdalen Road Church, The Old Schoolhouse,
Hertford Street, Oxford. OX4 3AJ

Giving
to
Magdalen Road Church

Thank you for considering supporting the ministries of Magdalen Road Church. Take a look at the **Getting Involved** leaflet for ways to give of your time and talent. Alongside practical support, we could not fulfil the vision of the church without the generous financial giving of God's people.

A starting point to help us understand financial giving as a Christian is this: God calls us to be good stewards of his good gifts. That includes our money. All income, benefits and savings are gifts from God. So it is not really our money, but his and we are to be wise in how we use it for him

Part of being a good steward is giving back to God a proportion of what is his. In the Old Testament this was known as tithing - a law to give a tenth of your income back to God. Because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, God's people now enjoy a new relationship with God (called the New Covenant). The New Covenant supersedes the covenant that God made with Israel in the Old Testament. Therefore, much of the Law of Moses has become obsolete and we are not commanded to give a specific percentage of our income in the New Testament.

However, under the New Covenant, the Holy Spirit works to write God's eternal law upon our hearts (Jeremiah 31:33-34; Ezekiel 36:26-27). He grows true righteousness in us. This is a righteousness which the Old Covenant and the Law of Moses pointed to, but lacked power to

produce. Since we now have that power from the Holy Spirit, the Christian life should be characterised by generosity, just as Israel's was supposed to be. Therefore, you may decide that tithing remains an appropriate way to give, so long as it flows from a heart that desires to be generous and honour God.

But we have further reasons to give financially. The whole earth belongs to our God. He also knows our needs, even before we ask, and he cares greatly for us. Therefore, we can trust God to provide for our material needs like food and clothes. Rather than worrying about them, we can get on with prioritising God's kingdom and his righteousness (Matthew 6:25-34). Seeking first the kingdom includes giving to the work of the kingdom, much of which is carried out through the local church. The local church is the primary means for making Jesus known, discipling people and caring for those in need. As we spend our earthly treasure giving to the work of the kingdom, Jesus says we store up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-24). Therefore, part of Christian discipleship is learning to give to the local church, trusting God to provide for our needs as we make financial sacrifices.

The apostle Paul gives us these wonderful encouragements and assurances about financial giving:

Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you

should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written:

They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures for ever.'

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

You can give by transferring funds into the church account:

Account name: **Magdalen Road Church**

Account number: **17898860**

Sort code: **30-67-53**

Reference: **[your name] MRC Giving**

Gift Aid allows UK charities to claim back the basic rate of income tax paid on donations by you. If you're eligible for GiftAid, please complete this declaration form and send the completed form to the church office, preferably when you're making your first gift.