

The Small Print

Where does the money come from?

The church charity runs entirely from giving by people in the church. We have no external support or funding.

Where does the money end up?

Everything given to the church is carefully accounted for. The Wharfedale Vineyard trustees monitor the finances regularly. We operate under UK company law and UK charity law. Every year independent accountants check the accounts before they are submitted to the Charities Commission and Companies House. You can see them online.

Can someone run off with the money?

Not easily! Most spending needs two authorities. The pastoral staff have a modest credit limit on Vineyard charge cards for when they are using church funds in the course of their work. We monitor the bank accounts almost every day and budget monthly to ensure nothing goes missing.

What is the money spent on? Although many thousands of volunteer hours are given to the church we also need to pay some staff to do the work of the church. We allocate approximately half the budget to wages. We give between 10%-15% away. We spend a similar amount on renting space (mainly for weekly worship) and most of the rest goes on looking after the children, young people, small groups, providing refreshments, running the office and the website.

How are we doing financially? We aim to maintain three months' spending in reserves and we budget to spend most of our income each year. In the last financial year (2015-2016) we have not kept a full amount of reserves but have balanced the books with a small surplus.

Can I give anonymously? The best way to give anonymously is to open a giving account with give.net or Stewardship (www.stewardship.org.uk). Otherwise three people will know about the giving – David Flowers (Senior Pastor), Anne Button (Executive Assistant Pastor - Finance Admin), Molly Ovenden (Assistant Administrator - finance).

What's the connection with The Vine? The Vine is our separate, though linked, charity. It is not a church. The Vineyard gives to it generously but the Vine also raises funds independently. The two charities have different trustees and bank accounts.

Why does some of the paperwork refer to the Wharfedale Vineyard? The Leeds Vineyard is covered by the Wharfedale Vineyard charity (as are the Sheffield and Harrogate Vineyards) so that although your giving will go to Leeds Vineyard, the overarching charity to which some of the legal terminology refers will be the Wharfedale Vineyard. The city names are different "working names" for the three churches served by the Wharfedale Vineyard charity. Although the three churches operate independently we combine governance and finance in order to lower costs and raise standards.

Can I see the accounts?

Yes, they are published every year on the charity commission website. Just insert our charity number.

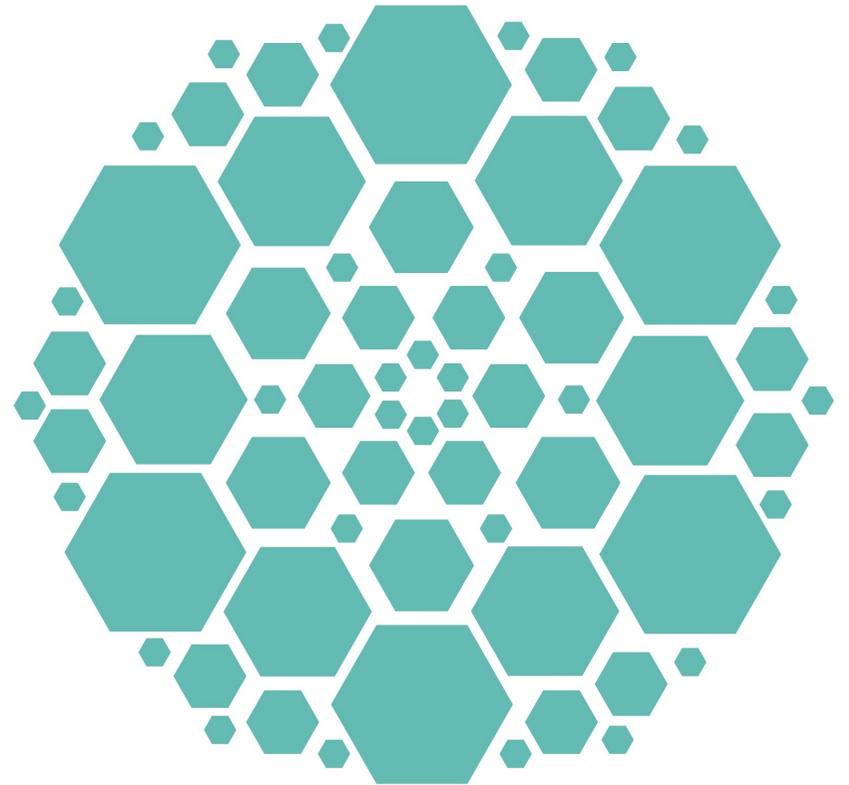
Is there ever a report given to a church meeting?

Once a year we give over a Sunday morning to reviewing the church's finances. We look at how much money has come in and where we have spent it. We then talk about how we think God has guided us to invest and spend in the coming year. This is called Pie Chart Sunday and tends to occur in May, after the end of our financial year.

What is the connection to Vineyard Churches UK & Ireland? Our Vineyard is a completely independent legal and financial entity. However, we are members of the Vineyard family and support it by giving 5% of our income which goes toward support church planting and the development of healthy churches in the UK and beyond.

Why don't we have a collection on Sundays? There are many good reasons to have a collection during weekly worship – we would call it an offering and consider it part of our worship. However, our message of God's incredible generosity to us does not sit easily with passing a plate around. Most people prefer to give through regular standing orders anyway so on balance we choose not to ask for money on Sundays.

Giving



Giving



We're so thankful for the generosity of those who give to Leeds Vineyard, providing the church with the resources to do things well and to demonstrate God's love outside this church in practical ways.

Having a regular income means we can continue to bless the community generously and fund the many projects, events and courses we run or support as well as the normal day-to-day running of the church.

Biblical Principles

We seek to implement Biblical principles about looking after money. The Bible teaches us to be generous but also to be good stewards, to look after money carefully but be willing to step out in faith that God will provide too.

Malachi 3:10 says, *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.*

And in 2 Corinthians 9:7 Paul instructs us, *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.*

Good stewardship

Our finances are administered carefully by Wharfedale Vineyard, a limited company with charitable status which serves three Vineyard Churches based in Leeds, Harrogate and Sheffield. By combining the financial administration & governance of three churches we gain from cost savings and are able to maintain a high standard of accountability and financial management. We have many checks and balances to ensure transparency and best practice.

We operate under UK company law and UK charity law. Every year independent accountants check the accounts before they are submitted to the Charities Commission and Companies House. You can see them online.

Where does the money go?

Everything Leeds Vineyard does is funded by your giving. We have no outside funding for the church. Although many thousands of volunteer hours are given to the church we also need to pay some staff to do the work of the church. We allocate approximately half the budget to wages. We give between 10%-15% away. We spend a similar amount on renting space (mainly for weekly worship) and most of the rest goes on looking after the children, young people, small groups, providing refreshments, running the office and the website.

How can I Give?

When you have prayerfully decided how much to give you can do so in one of three main ways:

1. **Standing order:** set one up using your online banking or one of our standing order forms. Please also complete a Gift Aid Declaration.
2. **Standing order from a charity account:** for example, give.net, Stewardship or Charities Aid Foundation. Quote charity number 1071353, Wharfedale Vineyard. Please provide a reference with the word 'Leeds' in it.
3. **Payroll Giving:** Instruct your employer to deduct the money from your salary (so neither you nor the employer has to pay tax) and pay it straight to a charity account with Stewardship or Charities Aid Foundation, for example. You can then give from that account to Leeds Vineyard.

It would really help us if you could send an email to giving@leedsvineyard.org to let the finance team know so that they can check we have received your gift correctly and apply Gift Aid to it if applicable.

Some people also give to Leeds Vineyard when they receive their annual bonus, an inheritance, when they make a profit on the sale of their house or business, often in their will, or just on spontaneous occasions when they believe God is prompting them to.

You can also make **one-off gifts** through:

Online at give.net (using your credit/debit card) — search for Leeds Vineyard, or;

By bank transfer to Leeds Vineyard (Sort code: 20-63-25 Account number: 43505529). Please add a reference including the word Gift.

Cash: We prefer to avoid handling cash (and there is normally no collection), but if you would prefer to give with cash please place your gift in an envelope marked as a gift and put it in the locked wooden box on the resources table which is checked by our admin staff who will arrange for it to be counted and properly recorded.

What's gift aid?

If you're a UK taxpayer, please check if we can claim Gift Aid on your gift. Gift Aid allows us to claim an extra 25p from HMRC on top of every £1 donated to Leeds Vineyard. As you can imagine this significantly increases our income each year.

If you have any questions about Gift Aid or are unsure if we can claim Gift Aid on your gift, please get in touch via email to giving@leedsvineyard.org

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