

How many beans make five?

A financial overview.

You may have come across this expression before; a person who knows 'how many beans make five' is good with figures.

Unfortunately, that's not me. So (while I am the Chair of Trustees) it's a bit ironic that I've been asked to write a financial review of our giving at King's. Fear not - Ian Nelson, our Financial Director, who makes his living knowing 'how many beans make five', has checked all the figures!

Being generous with money is part of our DNA at King's. Why? Because God has been so generous to us as individuals and as a church, we just have to respond in kind. So, what has been given and where it has gone? (All figures are from the financial year ending 31/10/2016).

Regular giving

A wonderful £366,671 was given by our regular givers, many of whom Gift Aid their giving, enabling us to claim 25p from HMRC for every £1 given. This enabled us to claim £73,804 from HMRC making a grand total of **£440,475!**

Regular giving enables us to do what God has called us to in this city and beyond. It goes into three main areas of church life: first, people who are paid to serve the church in a full or part-time capacity, Second, the practical things we do to serve the church and the city; and third, the places where we meet in and serve.

However, we intentionally give at least 10% each year to various external individuals and organisations. Last year, we gave £65,161 (some money was brought forward from 2015). Recipients included some individuals with strong links to King's ministering elsewhere, local charities, training church leaders and helping start and strengthen the churches in the Relational Mission family.

Please ask if you have any questions about our giving and finances at King's, and for more information about giving, check out the 'Giving' booklet or our giving webpage at: www.kingsnorwich.com/giving

Gift days

We have two special gift days in the church calendar each year, plus ad hoc responses to urgent humanitarian needs. The sum of £59,648 was given and £11,237 claimed in Gift Aid - **£70,885** in total!

Here's the breakdown:

Kenya (Community Empowerment Program)	£10,842
The Venue (Mile Cross)	£10,000
Developing Leaders (LEAD)	£14,349
Relational Mission	£4,764
Network Norfolk - Christian Community website	£1,000
Alive Church Norwich - to help with building work	£1,000
Kenya (Christmas food parcels)	£5,000
Turkish churches - helping refugees	£10,000
Common Purse - helping refugees in Norwich	£5,000
New Year - aid for refugees moving into Norwich	£8,930
TOTAL	£70,885

Serving people, saving lives

All net profit from the conferencing and coffee shop businesses is given away to make life-changing differences to people in genuine need. Although this is not strictly part of our giving, I've included it to underline our ethos of generosity. From 2016 profits we had **£11,034** to give away. This money has gone to provide food for famine relief in Kenya, an ultrasound machine for a medical clinic in Rwanda and to help fund our work with the disadvantaged in King's Care.

And finally

Many thanks to all you givers, we love the DNA of King's and such clear evidence of us growing in the grace of giving! Just a thought: if you are a UK taxpayer and don't already Gift Aid your giving, would you consider starting? It's really easy, perfectly safe and of huge benefit!

So, how many beans do make five? The answer, of course, is a bean, a bean and a half, half a bean and two beans. Ian Nelson, as an accountant, has come up with an alternative answer, though. Remember, when you Gift Aid your offering, HMRC gives us 25p for every £1 given, so his answer is : a bean, a bean, two more beans plus Gift Aid makes five. You choose!

Dave Pull