

MRBC Finance Policy

1. As an independent and self-supporting church, MRBC is responsible for raising its own finances. Members are encouraged to give regularly and proportionately towards the ministry of the church, using Gift Aid where possible.
2. We believe in direct giving. This means we will only seek to raise funds from within the church, or exceptionally, from other churches in the Baptist family. We will not use funding from lotteries or accept gifts from organisations seeking to influence church practice.
3. How we use our finances is decided by the church members, including the purchase and disposal of church buildings and assets. The Leadership Team will prepare a draft budget each year, which then has to be agreed by a majority vote at a Church Meeting.
4. Gifts and legacies to the church, whether from members or others, will be placed in the church's general funds. Individual donors cannot specify how their gifts should be spent as this goes against the principle of collective decision making by the Church Meeting. (Otherwise, people with more money would have a greater say in how we use our resources than the less well-off.)
5. Where individuals donate gifts in kind to the church, including works of art or furnishings, the Church Meeting will decide whether these should be kept for church use or sold in favour of church funds.
6. From time to time, the church may decide to hold a special gift day or set up a fund for a particular project. Once again, this will only be at the discretion of the Church Meeting. Individuals and groups within the church should not set up funds to raise money for specific church causes.
7. As a member of the Baptist family, we commit ourselves to supporting the work of Baptist Home Mission and BMS World Mission by giving a tithe of our income each year to support these causes.
8. Money given to other mission organisations, for instance from a retiring offering, will be passed directly to the organisations without being paid into the church bank account. We will not act as bankers for other organisations.
9. We will, at the discretion of the Church Meeting, support local Christian activities where appropriate, as an extension of our commitment to serving the community. Monies donated in this way will not be regarded as part of our tithe.
10. Organisations using our premises must follow our guidelines on what is permitted by way of fund-raising in our buildings.
11. Reserves policy: we will seek to retain a balance in our bank account that is equivalent to three months of our normal expenditure.

Adopted: at 12th March 2019 church meeting.

(MRBC header and date adopted added 17th April 2019)