



Helensburgh/Stanwell Park Anglican Church

Guidelines For Giving

Giving For God's Gospel

Information and guidelines about supporting the ministry of the gospel in 2508 and beyond.



Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. - 2 Corinthians 9:7

Our Vision



We exist to:

Glorify God

By making disciples

Who:

Grow in love for Jesus

Serve his people - the church

Share Christ with the lost

Through:

Listening to God in his word by his spirit

Depending on God in prayer

As a church we exist to bring glory to our great God and maker. We are convinced that the way to do this is by helping people to know Jesus for the first time, and after that, to grow in him until our life ends, or he returns.

These disciples will be defined by their character, people who love Jesus, serve his church and share Christ with the lost. All of this is achieved through listening to God's word and prayerful dependence upon him.

We aim to be great commission people with a great commandment mindset.

Guidelines for Giving

This booklet aims to raise our awareness of giving for the sake of the gospel of God. It seeks to explain why we should give and provides some tools to help you work out what this means in practice, showing how to give, how to work out what you will give and where to direct your giving.

Step One - How Much Should I Give?

Why Give?

The Scriptures say that God's people should give because:

1. Giving is a grateful response to the generosity of God, shown in the death of his Son. (2 Corinthians 8-9)
2. We are partners in the gospel. (Philippians 1:3-7)
3. We have an obligation to provide for those who labour amongst us in the Lord and teach us God's word. (1 Corinthians 9; 1 Timothy 5:17-18)
4. We also have an obligation to provide for the needy. Jesus said: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. (Matthew 22:39; Galatians 6:10; James 2)

The Principle of Giving

In the Old Testament, God's people were commanded to give a tenth ('tithe') of all their produce to God in joyful response to his generosity. The idea of giving a tenth is first seen in Abraham and Jacob (Gen. 14:28), then made explicit in the law of Moses (Num. 18, Deut 12, 14, 26, 2 Chr 31, Mal 3). Much of the tithe went towards supporting the priests who served them in God's work, and from them to the poor in the community.

The New Testament doesn't stipulate percentages, but challenges us with the principles of generosity, partnership, obligation and love. So how much should we give? A tenth is a good starting point (can you imagine the disciples giving less than their previous tithe after they became Christians?). Therefore, it should be a starting point for considering how generous we can be, not a legalistic rule or figure we must absolutely stick to. The more fundamental question to ponder is this: how much have we received from God?

As New Testament believers, we are still to give back to God in response to his generous blessings to us (Phil. 4:18). Indeed, we have received God's ultimate generosity to us in the death of his Son, who, though he was rich, yet for our sake became poor, so that through his poverty, we might become rich (2 Cor. 8:9). If we truly understand this gospel, we will cheerfully give as much as we can, and even beyond our ability (2 Cor. 8-9)!

Paul provides some practical examples for the Christians in the church at Corinth:

1. 'On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come, no collections will have to be made.' (1 Cor 16:2)
2. 'Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.' (2 Cor 9:6)
3. 'Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly, or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' (2 Cor 9:7)





The Practice of Giving

Many people use the 'tithing' principle as a rough 'rule of thumb', setting aside 10% of their after tax income to support the work of various Gospel and aid organisations, including their local church. The first step is to work out how much money you have to start with. So, for example, someone who has a total annual after tax income of \$50,000, and has decided to set aside 10% will end up giving \$5,000 annually (or \$420 per month). This number is not a legalistic requirement, nor an artificial cap on how much you can give. The point here is that it is important to give in a thoughtful way. Many give whatever is left in their wallet or purse at the end of the week-end, but the purpose of this document, in line with the teaching of Scripture is to help you plan for your giving in a regular manner.

The table on the next page is a simple way to do that (it is for your use only). It is based on the amount of income you actually get the benefit from (your salary, along with other income or benefits you receive).

	Me	My Spouse (if applicable)
Annual Salary (After Tax)		
Other Income (Interest, Benefits etc)		
Totals		
My/Our Total Income	(A)	

Prayerfully consider how much you would like to set aside from this amount to give. You can work out the actual amount using the table below.

	Example	Your Figures
Total Income (From Above) (A)	\$30,000 (A)	\$ (A)
Percentage	13% (B)	% (B)
Annual Gift ($A \times B \div 100$)	\$3,900 (C)	\$ (C)
Monthly Gift ($C \div 12$)	\$325 (D)	\$ (D)
Weekly Gift ($C \div 52$)	\$75 (E)	\$ (E)

This process of ‘deciding in your heart’ how much to give will of course need to be repeated each year or so, or as your financial situation changes. This should include both a review of the percentage you decide to set aside, as well as a recalculation to reflect a change in income.

Above all, we must make sure that this process is completely undergirded by prayer, trusting God with our money.

Step Two - To Whom Should I Give?

The Principle

In the Old Testament, the Israelite tithe was channelled by God to those who needed it - to the priests and Levites who had no other source of income because of their duties, and to the poor of the land.

We see a similar pattern in the New Testament, where Christian giving is directed to meeting the needs of those who labour amongst us in the Lord, as well as towards the poor.

As Paul says:

‘Let him who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches... so then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith’.
(Gal 6:6-10)

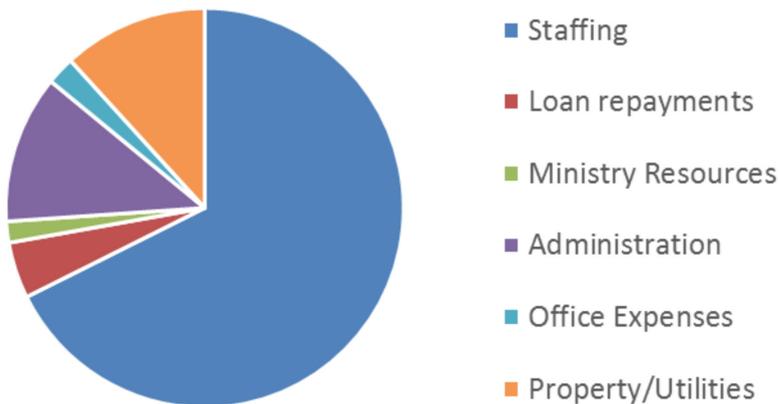
In Practice

This will mean that we ought to direct our money towards our local church and the work of the gospel further afield. Accordingly, you might like to take the amount you calculated at step one and divide it between these two areas.

Helensburgh and Stanwell Park Anglican

The ministry of Helensburgh and Stanwell Park Anglican Church receives all its support from the giving of those who attend, and a large proportion of our gift should go towards supporting the ministry from which we benefit.

The graph on the following page shows just where and how our money is currently being divided. As you can see, a majority of our income goes to pay ‘those who labour amongst us in the Lord.’



‘Further afield’

We would encourage you to give ‘further afield’ as well as to the local church. There are many good Christian organisations which are worth supporting, but as a church, we have agreed to formally assist the following groups. And so these would be our recommendation:

Louise (CMS)

Louise is based in the Middle East and work with differing cultures, bringing the word of God to many and varied people. She is involved in an exciting, sensitive and interesting region of the world and are affiliated with the Church Missionary Society

Matthew and Louise George (ECM)

The George family have been involved in university ministry in Portugal. They are affiliated with European Christian Mission where Matthew works in their Australian office.

Amanda Slade (AFES)

Amanda ministers to university students in regional Victoria. She has been working in this position as a ministry trainee for the last three years.

The Katoke Trust

The Katoke Trust run a school in Tanzania. This is a challenging ministry as the school is still in its early days in being established and directed. It has many close links with members of our church.

Christian Surfers—Stanwell Park

The Christian Surfers group at Stanwell Park has impacted many local hearts for Jesus over many years through a weekly evangelistic meeting to surf, and speak about Jesus. This has traditionally been a ministry for boys and young men, though recently a ministry to girls in the area has also started.

Anglican Aid

Formerly known as the Archbishop's Aid Appeal, Anglican Aid seeks to bring aid from our wealthy part of the world to those places in need, bringing Christian care through temporal, practical, physical and spiritual means.

Moore Theological College

Moore Theological College is the foundation of a strong and evangelical diocese of Sydney. It produces a majority of our clergy in the Diocese and also seeks to train lay people throughout the world through its external studies program.

Anglicare

Anglicare is the social care arm of the Diocese of Sydney. They bring relief, comfort, counselling and emergency needs to thousands of people every year across our state. They have sought, over recent years to develop greater partnerships with the parishes, hence our support here.

Bush Church Aid Society

The Bush Church Aid Society, known also as the BCA seeks to fund ministry in remote, rural and regional areas of our nation. Most often the church in these parts of our vast nation cannot support a full time staff member or pastor, as BCA exists to support ministry in these parts of our nation.

As a 'rule of thumb' we suggest you may wish to give 10% of your total gift to those ministries further afield. The giving envelopes can help you to do this quickly and easily. Alternatively, you can give directly to some organizations, which may provide a tax benefit.

	Example			Your Figures		
Group	Share	Per Month	Per Week	Share	Per Month	Per Week
Church	90%	\$292.50	\$67.50			
Louise	5%	\$16.25	\$3.75			
BCA	5%	\$16.25	\$3.75			
Total	100%	\$320 (D)	\$75 (E)	100%	\$ (D)	\$ (E)

You can use the above table to work out how to divide up your gift, starting with your monthly or weekly gift (D or E from step one)





Step Three - How Can I Give?

We recommend the following methods to help you give regularly and faithfully. We use two main methods here at Helensburgh and Stanwell Park Anglican Church.

1. Regular EFT Payment

This is where you authorise the bank to automatically make a regular payment to the church from your own account. This normally does not incur any fees. You will need to organise this with your bank.

The church's bank details for general offertory are:

BSB: 802-249

Account Number: 249907477

Account Name: Helensburgh and Stanwell Park Anglican Parish

Mission payments can also be made to this account. Simply enter 'Missions' in the payment reference or the name of the particular mission you would like to make a payment to.

2. Cash (envelopes)

Use anonymous dated envelopes to help you give regularly. Simply grab a box and mark on the back how your giving is to be distributed. These envelopes are divided into two compartments. You can use one side of the envelope for Helensburgh and Stanwell Park Anglican and the other side for your preferred mission organisations. These envelopes are also helpful as they act as reminders to give regularly. Of course, you can also give in cash without an envelope, though the envelopes are helpful.

Other Ideas

You may wish to ask your employer to direct a specific portion of your pay directly to the church bank account.

You may also wish to make a lasting contribution to the work of the gospel by leaving a bequest in your will (naturally you should speak to a solicitor about this option).

All of these options and activities are a partnership in the gospel of the Lord Jesus.

The advice above can be summarized in a number of words.

Giving should be:

Regular (1 Corinthians 16:2)

Systematic (1 Corinthians 16:2)

Proportional (1 Corinthians 16:2)

Generous (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Cheerful (2 Corinthians 9:7)