

HOW YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS MINISTRIES

St. Michael's has a wide range of ministries that are not visible to all on Sundays. These can be seen in another document called "Ministries at St. Michael's" and your offerings help our staff and parish council to support such ministries as:

- > Home Groups
- > Walking Group
- > Youth Ministries
- > Bible study groups
- > Book groups
- > Outreach concerts
- > Christmas community events
- > Playgroup
- > Retreats
- > Training for ministry students
- > and more...

SUPPORTING OUR VISION/ACTION PLAN

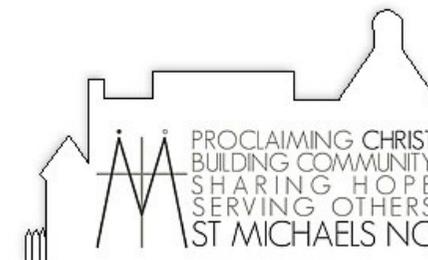
Your offerings also help us to achieve the goals set out in our current [Vision/Action Plan 2015](#)

Examples of new ministry initiatives include:

- > Employ a paid assistant curate (Hannah Craven) 2015-2017 to help make contact with and welcome new families with young children and build a healthy and growing children's ministry. From July 1 an **increase in offerings** is required to help support a half-time salary.
- > Create outreach opportunities through involvement with local community centers and through events and ministries that support them.
- > Support our paid youth minister (Callum Goldby) to reach out to new youth in the local area and create new opportunities for young people to find faith and be part of the church community.

MAJOR PROPERTY EXPENSES PLANNED IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

- Replace defunct heating in Williams Hall
- Replace rotting church picket fence
- Repair Vicarage fence
- Renovate the Williams Hall Kitchen
- Renovate the bathrooms
- Repair roof leaks



St Michael's Anglican Church, North Carlton

GIVING

GIVING REGULARLY

Giving regularly and consistently via electronic means assists the Parish Council in planning and managing the church's budgeting and expenditure for ministry and mission.

During worship services collection bowls are passed around to give opportunities for offerings to be given and as a sign that worship includes our financial stewardship. From time to time appeals may be made for gifts to fund projects or to meet special needs.

ONLINE GIVING

Account: St Michael's Anglican Church

Account No: 10078845 | BSB: 063114



St Michael's Anglican Church
14 Mcllwraith St, North Carlton
p. 9380 6387
e. office@stmichaelsnc.org.au
w. stmichaelsnc.org.au

MODELS OF FINANCIAL GIVING TO THE CHURCH

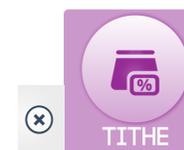


The New Testament doesn't prescribe how or how much money someone should give to their church. There is, however, a lot to learn about stewardship from the teaching of Jesus and the exhortations of the apostles. Three common, but problematic models of giving taught in churches in today include: 1. The "Blessing" model, 2. The "Tithe" model, and 3. The "Downscaling" model.



Model #1 Blessing - calls people to test God's faithfulness by asking for personal blessings as a result of generous giving. Problems often follow because the focus is on the individual and personal desires.

No-where in the New Testament do we find Christian leaders praying for wealth and abundance for themselves. Jesus "became poor so that we might become rich," in treasures in heaven, not earth (see 2 Corinthians 8:8-15).



Model #2 Tithe - because the Old Testament Law prescribed for Israel 10% of one's produce to dedicate to the Lord and the temple, some teach that so should believers give 10% of income to the church. The New Testament has no such prescription. The apostle Paul

called for freewill offerings to advance the gospel and help suffering Christians. Tithing today can appear legalistic and often places burdens on those with occasional income or hardship in life. Jesus criticized those who gave a tenth but were not generous in life (e.g. Matthew 23:23).



Model #3 Downscaling - is often aligned with justice-seekers and calls Christians to “live simply that others might simply live” as author Ron Sider once put it. It reminds us rightly that there is no such thing as “private” lifestyle choices in a global economic age. This model wisely asks, “How much is enough?” and calls believers to a more modest assessment of need. However, the New Testament doesn’t prescribe downscaling, nor set what is “enough”, though it does point to contentment found in Christ, not in material possessions.



A **fourth model and preferred way** of giving at St Michael’s is “**whole-of-life stewardship**”. The major emphasis in New Testament teaching is on richness towards God, advancing the Gospel and generosity towards the needy (Mark 12:41-43; Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 8:7; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15).

All of life and all our money and possessions should be seen as God-given and thankfully put into God’s service at home, at church, at work, in study, etc. Psalm 104 boldly proclaims, “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.” King David declared, “Everything comes from you O Lord, and we have given only what comes from your hand” (1 Chron. 29:14). We should not forget these things (Deut. 8:10-18).

Jesus called for new orientation of what one truly treasures (e.g. Matthew chapter 6). His teaching encompassed how one uses time and resources and money in the light of God’s providence to us and all people. Some further Scriptures to consider include: Acts 4:32-47; Acts 5:1-4; Matt. 23:23; 2 Cor. chs 8 & 9.

PLANNING YOUR GIVING

A “whole-of-life stewardship” model calls each believer to a dynamic and relational attitude towards giving. It calls for global thinking too—all of one’s life and possessions for God’s Kingdom purposes. No one should prescribe what another should give to the church or what they should share with others. Instead, believers should consider their thankfulness to God for all things and regard their relationship with God and with others and their partnership in being at mission in the church as they plan their giving and sharing.

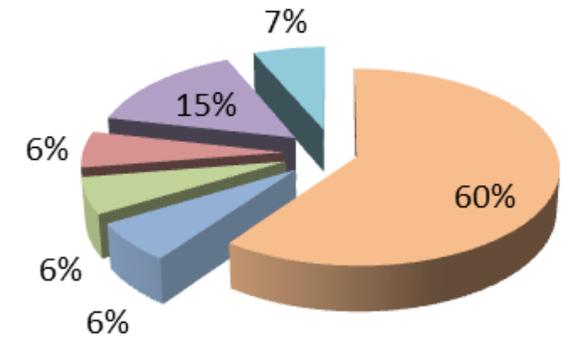
The following steps may be helpful:

1. Set aside time to pray and consider thankfully all that God has entrusted to you and what you have to give or share.
2. Consider how your money, time, talents and possessions might be best used to serve God’s purposes (in your church, in your work/study, for family, for neighbours, for missions, for the poor, etc.)
3. Prayerfully, freely, cheerfully and without compulsion, consider how much money you can regularly give to St Michael’s Church for our ministries and our mission without causing hardship. Keep the vision/action plan of the parish in mind as you plan your giving.
4. Also consider how your time, resources, talents and spiritual gifts might be shared in the church .
5. 6.5% of your offerings to St. Michael’s will go to Christian missions and aid work chosen by Parish Council. You may also want to consider giving individually to others who serve outside our parish in word and deed in the name of God.
6. From time to time the Parish Council will announce appeals to fund capital projects or ministry initiatives and you may be able to give one-off donations to these as God enables you.
7. Regularly review your giving. If times are good be generous. If hardship comes, you may need to postpone your giving or ask for help from the church leaders.

OUR SOURCES OF FINANCE

- St Michael’s relies on the freewill offering of its parishioners for the majority of its spending on ministries, property and staff. We receive no financial contributions from the government or from the wider Anglican Church.
- Donations received for hall hire assist us in funding part of the property maintenance and hall hire management.

WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?



- Staff
- Supporting Missions
- Loan Repayment
- Church and Vicarage Utility Costs
- Supporting the Diocese