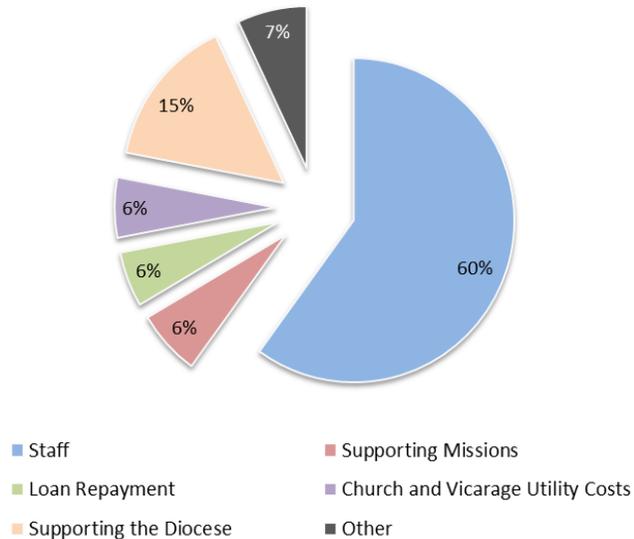


OUR SOURCES OF FINANCE

- 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 government or from the diocese.
- Donations received for hall use assist us in funding part of the property maintenance and hall hire management.

WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?



OUR PAID STAFF

Vicar—Steve Webster
 Assistant Curate —Hannah Craven
 Office Secretary—Emma Sugars



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

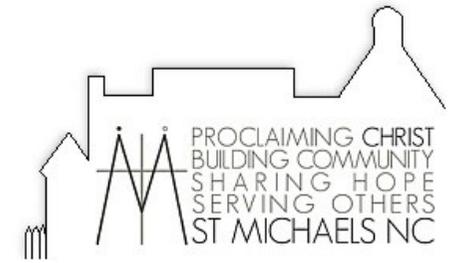
MAJOR EXPENSES PLANNED IN THE

NEXT 5 YEARS

- Increased staff cost in 2016/17 to support assistant curate (Hannah Craven)
- Replace rotting picket fence in sections
- Renovate the Williams Hall Kitchen
- Pay off existing bank loan for glass foyer

ONLINE GIVING

Account: St Michael's Anglican Church
 Account No: 10078845 | BSB: 063114



ST MICHAEL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

GIVING

This leaflet recommends an approach to financial giving for members of St Michael's as part of their commitment to Christ and the mission of the Church. It also explains where the financial support for the church's staff and ministries comes from and how the monies received will be distributed.



MODELS OF FINANCIAL GIVING TO THE CHURCH

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



Model #1 suggests believers should prove God's faithfulness by expecting a range of 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," a reference not to material wealth for oneself, but generosity and godliness toward others (see 2 Corinthians 8:8-15).



Model #2 suggests that because the Old Testament Law prescribed 10% of one's income/wealth and to give to the Lord first before all other expenditure, so too should believers do the same today. Problems often follow in our urbanized life, including burdensome costs on those with occasional income, or with large families to feed, or with no control over purse-strings. Equally, those who can give a tithe often feel they have "ticked the box", losing sight of the greater issue.

No-where in the New Testament is Old Testament tithing insisted on as the preferred model for Christian giving. The New Testament reveals a more radical and challenging attitude to giving, where all of one's self and one's wealth is given into God's service (e.g. Romans 12:1-3; Luke 12:32-34). In addition, Jesus criticized those who gave legalistically but were not generous otherwise (e.g. Matthew 23:23).



Model #3 is often aligned with believers who long to see greater equity and justice in society, and calls believers to "live simply that others might simply live" as author Ron Sider once put it.

This model reminds us rightly that there is no such thing as "private" lifestyle choices in this 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 to any average or amount. In the case of Zaccheus in Luke 19, Jesus called him to give so much to repay have been in hardship unless he joined a community with a shared purse. More than this, the major emphasis in New Testament teaching is not on downscaling to a point of basic needs, but on richness towards God and unconditional generosity towards the needy (Mark 12:41-43; Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 8:7; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15).



A **fourth model** is the **preferred way** of viewing our giving at St Michael's. It is what we call the "Whole-of-life stewardship" model. It reflects a lot of teaching we find in the New Testament

that suggests all of our lives and possessions belong to God and should be given into God's service. Psalm 104 boldly proclaims, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it." In 1 Chronicles 29 King David prayed to God and acknowledged "Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." Long before that, Moses warned Israelites that when they were settled and prosperous they should not become self-centered and forget God who delivered them from peril (Deuteronomy 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.

In the early church, some generous believers sold properties to further the mission of the church and also to supply help to poorer members. The New Testament has praise for generosity and warnings against insincere, stingy and self-centered attitudes (e.g. Acts 4:32-47; Matthew 23:23; Acts 5:1-4).

During a collection for famine-stricken Christians, the Apostle Paul called all Christians to freely choose before God what they should give and urged them to act generously with a cheerful heart in partnership with other Christians without causing hardship (e.g. attitudes encouraged in 2 Corinthians 8 and 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 or what they should share.

Instead, believers should consider their thankfulness to God for all things and regard their relationship with God and with others as they plan their giving and sharing.

The following steps may be helpful:

1. Set aside time to pray and consider all that God has entrusted to you and what is in your control to give or share.
2. Express your thankfulness to God in prayer.
3. 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.)
4. Prayerfully, freely without compulsion, consider how much money you can regularly give as a partner in mission at St Michael's without causing hardship. Keep the vision/action plan of the parish in mind as you plan your giving.
5. Also consider how your time, resources, talents and spiritual gifts might be shared in your church too.
6. 6.5% of your offerings to St. Michael's will go to selected Christian missions. You may also want to consider giving individually to others who serve outside our parish in word and deed in the name of God.
7. 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.
8. Regularly review your giving. If times are good for you, you may be able to be more generous for a time. If hardship comes, postponement to giving may be necessary. There may even be times when you need help from the church financially or practically.