

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding several autumn leaves. The leaves are in various stages of decay, with colors ranging from vibrant red and orange to faded green and brown. The person is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt. The background is a soft-focus field of fallen leaves.

# GIVING FAQ



**MINCHINBURY**  
ANGLICAN CHURCH

# GIVING FAQ

## 1. WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY MONEY?

How would our culture answer this one? 'Indulge yourself', 'It's all about you!' the marketing of our age tells us. Our culture says that earning money to spend on ourselves is a marker of success: the more lavish the lifestyle, the bigger the toys, the more outfits and shoes on the rack, the more countries visited, the faster the car ... the more happy we are? Sadly, the world has this one upside down!

As Christians, we need to recognise first and foremost that everything we have is given to us by God. 'The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,' shouts the Psalmist (Psalm 24:1) - or hear Paul's instruction to Timothy, 'everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving (1 Timothy 4:4).

Money is a great part of creation, which can do so much good if used faithfully. But of course, as we look around our culture and at our own heart, we know that the money rat-race can also be a trap and a burden, a slave-master who can take our allegiance away from the living God. Jesus was acutely aware of our temptation; He famously taught us, 'you cannot serve God and money' (Luke 16:10). So perhaps a helpful re-phrasing of the question is in order!

## **2. WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH GOD'S MONEY ENTRUSTED TO ME?**

Thankfully, the Bible gives us some clear priorities on this one. Our first priority is to provide for our family - and relatives, if needs be (e.g. 1 Timothy 5:8). Second, we are to acknowledge that Gospel workers need our support. In the Bible we see a pattern laid down from the very beginning of the formation of God's people, that spiritual ministers (servants) of the people should be provided for by those who they serve (e.g. Deuteronomy 18:1-5).

In the early church, time and again Paul is found both thanking and encouraging the churches for their financial support of both his own and other missionary's Gospel work (e.g. Romans 15:25- 29; 1 Corinthians 9:3-14). In 3 John, we are encouraged to see the significance and great opportunity afforded by our giving as our financial partnership in the Gospel means that we become a 'fellow worker for the truth' (3 John 1:5-8). Moving outwards in our circle of responsibilities, we are encouraged to care for the poor in the world, especially poorer churches (cf. 2 Corinthians 8).

## **3. IS IT MORE HELPFUL TO GIVE IN A ONE-OFF WAY EACH YEAR OR REGULARLY?**

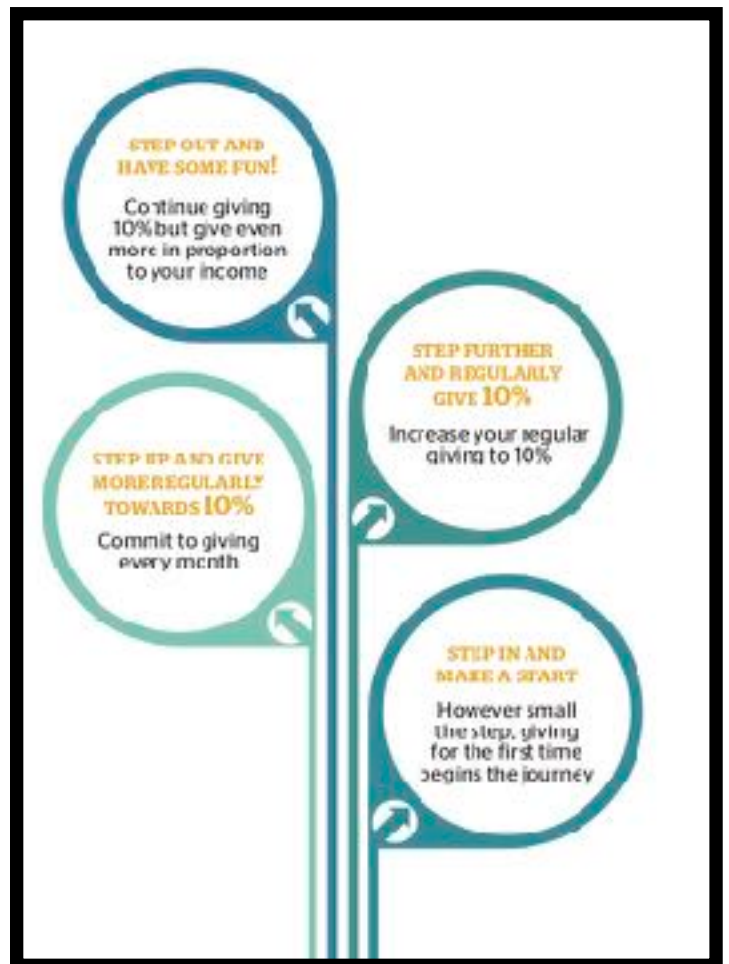
This is a matter of freedom, of course, but there are some good reasons why you might consider regular donations. First, regular donations do help the governance team with managing cash-flow for our church. One-off donations are still helpful, but harder to predict and so, make planning our cash-flow more difficult. Second, planning to give each month, or week, means that your own cash-flow is managed better. Third, committing to a monthly giving plan means a regular reminder of your financial partnership with the Gospel work of our church on your bank statement; a good prompt to pray for the spread of the Gospel by our ministry,

## 4. HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

There is no 'right' answer on this one, but there are some challenging biblical principles. We are encouraged to be generous. Why generous? It is not difficult to see why. God has lavished the riches of His grace upon us in the Gospel of salvation (Ephesians 2:7-10; Philippians 4:19-20).

In the Old Testament God called his people to show their love to Him by giving a tithe or 10% of their income. In the New Testament, followers of Jesus are not limited by the tithe, but are called to give generously, deliberately, sensibly and enthusiastically (2 Cor 8-9).

Jesus commends the actions of a poor widow for putting two small copper coins in an offertory box and condemns the offerings of the rich since He knows how costly this donation was for the widow. Of the rich He says, 'they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.' (Luke 21:1-4).



### **We recognise and celebrate equal sacrifice not equal giving.**

Some will be giving comparatively bigger or smaller amounts but it is the attitude of the heart that God honours - not simply a pile of dollars.

We recognise and celebrate Christian generosity may be expressed outside the local church. As we grow in generosity we will naturally be drawn to the needs of the world around us. We seek neither to restrict nor necessarily guide your outside giving. As a principle we would suggest that you give first to the local church and after that in whatever places you feel led by God.

The following table may also help you as you prayerfully plan your financial partnership with us.

Income		Expenses	
Wages (net)		Housing	
Other		Essentials	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	
10% of my income is:		Available money (Income - Expenses)	
I plan to spend:			
I plan to save:			
I plan to give:			

If you would like further help with budgeting or managing your finances please don't hesitate to contact us and we get you connected with some experts who work in this area.

## 5. HOW IS MY GIVING USED?

In short, for the ministry and mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ at Minchinbury and beyond. Practically, like the early churches of Corinth, Rome, Ephesus, Galatia and the rest, our church depends on the donations of its members for its running costs.

At modest wages, staffing costs account for more than 75% of the annual church budget. The remainder of the budget is spent directly on administrative, property and ministry initiatives and support.

The church budget is developed each year by the governance team, in consultation with the ministry team, and is then ratified at the annual general meeting. The accounts are professionally audited annually. If you have any questions at all about the church financials please email [info@minchibury.church](mailto:info@minchibury.church).

## 6. How You Can Give

There are two main ways you can give to support the mission and ministry of our church:

### Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

You can setup your regular giving via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) through your banking institution.

<b>Account Name:</b>	Minchinbury Anglican Church
<b>BSB:</b>	062 714
<b>Account no:</b>	1015 0284

### Sundays

You can give via cash or cheque at any of our Sunday services.





EASTER