

# GOSPEL GIVING

A handbook on  
giving at Hope  
Anglican Church

# INTRODUCTION

**Hope Anglican Church was planted in late 2016 and launched in March 2017 because of the staggering need we see in Sydney's growing South-west for the people of this area to know the hope that is only found in Jesus.**

The population within the area from Leppington to Badgery's Creek is set to grow by a staggering 350,000 people living in 110,000 new homes by 2034. Leppington is one of the fastest-growing suburbs in Australia and we know that very few know the love of Jesus and the hope that He brings.

We launched Hope Anglican Church because we wanted to change that. Our vision is a big vision:

**To see the hope of Jesus in every home in Sydney's new South-west**

**Every home!** It's a huge vision. It's the kind of vision that will take the planting of more churches. It's the kind of vision you need God to turn up for if it's ever going to become a reality. We don't know the future but we know the God who controls it. We certainly know that God will do His work as the gospel about Jesus is lived and proclaimed. We don't know what the response of every home or every person will be to Jesus but we do know the One who can do more than we can ever hope or imagine. This is the vision that has excited us and birthed Hope Anglican Church.

A vision like this also requires resourcing.

This booklet is to help explain how you can worship God, be spiritually enriched, increase your joy and partner with us in growing God's kingdom, all through the simply act of being generous with the money that He has so graciously given us.

## Our Giving Details

Account name:  
**Anglican Parish of  
Leppington**

BSB: **032 372**

Account no: **487 725**



# To see the hope of Jesus in every home in Sydney's new south-west



But who am I [asked King David], and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

1 Chronicles 29:14

# Why should we give?

The Bible gives multiple reasons why we should give. Five reasons include:

## 1. GOD GAVE FIRST

**We are loved by a generous God.** He is our creator and everything we have is a gift from Him. The most famous verse in the Bible says that 'God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life (Jn 3:16). God has been exceedingly generous to us. Amazingly that gift has also made us rich, not materially, but spiritually. God has given us Himself! Paul motivates the Corinthians to give by reminding them of the 'Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: Though He was rich, for your sake He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich.' (2 Cor 8:9). We give because God first gave to us.

## 2. RENEWED MINDS. CHANGED HEARTS

**The Spirit's work in our hearts will be seen in our financial priorities.** Jesus warned that it is impossible to serve both God and money (Matt 6:24). One of the ways we demonstrate the fact that we worship God and not our money is by giving it away. The Apostle Paul refers to the financial gifts of the Philippians as 'a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God' (Phil 4:18). In other words, the act of giving our money away to things He holds dear is a sacrificial act through which we worship and honour God.



### 3. FOR GOD'S GLORY AND OUR GOOD

Paul told the Ephesian elders, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35). He tells the Philippians, 'Not that I seek the gift; but I seek the profit that is increasing to your account' (Phil 4:17). After telling the Corinthians to give generously, he says 'God is able to make every grace overflow to you' (2 Cor 9:8). This is not to say that if we give money away we will always get more money in return, as if God is some broken poker machine. That may happen, but it's certainly not guaranteed. Rather, the act of giving is spiritually enriching. We give for God's glory not ours, yet it is to our good that we give. Giving money away is a spiritual act by which we worship and glorify God. We are putting to use the resources God has entrusted to us for what matters most to Him.

### 4. TO MULTIPLY DISCIPLES

We live in the age of the great commission of Jesus: to make disciples of all nations. Our goal is to multiply disciples of Jesus to God's glory. Jesus is accomplishing this through His church by His Spirit today. While the Apostle Paul occasionally worked as a tent maker (Acts 18:3), his calling was to preach the gospel. In order to enable him to continue his work, he received financial support from several partner churches (Phil 4:15-16). This enabled him to multiply ministry and to make and mature more disciples. He also told Timothy, 'The elders who are good leaders should be considered worthy of an ample honorarium, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching' (1 Tim 5:17). By financially supporting gospel work, we can free up more people to lead us in multiplying disciples and growing God's Kingdom.

### 5. ETERNAL PRIORITIES

The Bible makes it clear that this life is brief and the one to come is eternal. Jesus warns us not to store up treasures on earth that are temporary but rather to store up treasures in heaven that never wear out (Matthew 6:19-21). As Christians in a church family that is focused on God's great purposes we can invest our money in things that will endure forever. How good is that!

# How much should we give?

The New Testament never names a specific amount we should give. Rather, it simply tells us to be generous in proportion to our income (1 Cor 16:1-2). This means that a widow's coin can be more generous than a rich person's gift, even if the widow's coin is a smaller amount (Lk 21:1-4). God wants our giving to be cheerful and sacrificial – flowing from thankfulness, faith and love for Him and others.

## WHAT DOES GENEROSITY LOOK LIKE?

In the Old Testament, God's people were encouraged to give a tithe (10%) of their income back to Him. The idea is first introduced in Leviticus 27:30:

'Every tenth of the land's produce, grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.'

An additional tithe was also given once every three years to support the poor. On top of this, many Israelites voluntarily gave free will offerings to God as an expression of their faith in Him and thankfulness for all that He had done for them.

By the time we reach the New Testament, a new principle is introduced – that of sacrificial generosity. Sacrificial generosity replaces the Old Testament principle of tithing. So, rather than being commanded to give 10%, Christians are now called to show generosity in response to God's grace, shown to us in Jesus Christ.

## SO HOW MUCH SHOULD WE GIVE?

Even though the New Testament does not lay upon us the old law of 10%, it would seem rather inconsistent with the gospel of grace for us to conclude that we should give any less than 10%. Grace actually lifts the bar on generosity rather than lowering it. But it also removes the bar! Our giving is from the heart.

As those who have been enriched in every way by the generosity of Jesus, the New Testament helps Christians to see the tithe as a benchmark from which we can launch into sacrificial generosity. In other words, if you want to know what generosity looks like, why not try starting with a tithe and see if you can build up from there? Let the tithe be a springboard for generosity.

## DO I HAVE TO GIVE TEN PERCENT?

The tithe isn't a law for us. Some of us can give much more than 10%, while there may be times where, for various reasons, that is not possible for others. As 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 reminds us, our giving is ultimately a matter of prayerful consideration before God. We give what we freely decide in our hearts to give. At the end of the day, our finances are just one of the many areas that we must bring before God in prayer as we consider how to worship Him with all that He has graciously given us.

Nevertheless, we must be careful not to fool ourselves. Australians are not typically generous givers. An article in the Sydney Morning Herald (16/12/11) revealed that on average, Australians gave 0.4% of their taxable income to not-for-profits. We live in a stingy culture, obsessed with building our own kingdoms and securing our next experience or piece of real estate. This world is not our home, so let's take seriously what Jesus says in Matthew 6:19-21:

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



# Who should we give to?

While all of our giving is ultimately a gift given to God, the Bible highlights a few key groups that Christians can and should give to:

## 1. The local church

(Gal 6:6, 1 Tim 5:17-18)

## 2. Missionaries and church planters

(Phil 4:16, 2 Cor 11:8)

## 3. The Christian poor

(1 Cor 16:1-2, Jas 2:14-17)

## 4. Those in need

(Lk 14:12-14, Gal 6:10)



## SHOULD WE PRIORITISE THE LOCAL CHURCH?

While Christians should always seek to give to worthy causes beyond their local church, it would be a mistake to neglect the responsibility we have to support those who minister directly to us at church. Our first priority in giving is our church. In 1 Corinthians 9:7-11, Paul writes:

Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its fruit? Or who shepherds a flock and does not drink the milk from the flock? Am I saying this from a human perspective? Doesn't the law also say the same thing? For it is written in the law of Moses, Do not muzzle an ox while it treads out grain. Is God really concerned with oxen? Or isn't He really saying it for us? Yes, this is written for us, because he who plows ought to plow in hope, and he who threshes should do so in hope of sharing the crop. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it too much if we reap material benefits from you?

## SO WHO SHOULD I GIVE TO?

Given the enormous good that can be done through our generosity, we invite all our members to consider tithing their income to Hope Church, and encourage them to give to this over and above other worthy causes.

# Giving at Hope

ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS





## How do I practically decide how much to give?

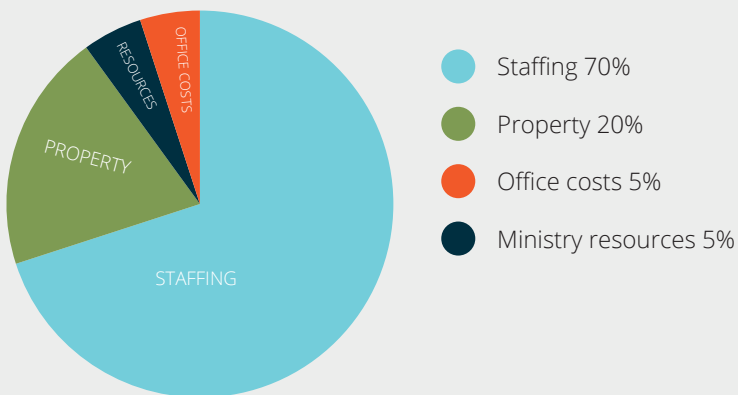
The practical part of financial partnership is pretty straightforward. Simply get out a calculator, work out all of your income streams (weekly/monthly pay packets, business profits, bonuses, windfalls and other sources of income) and then figure out what 10% of that is. Eyeball that figure, and then prayerfully ask God to help you use it as a springboard to generosity. Once you've done that, decide on the amount you want to give to church and other causes, and then go for it.

Whether you choose to give weekly, monthly or annually is not important. Once a year at Hope we ask our church family to complete a pledge form to help us budget effectively for the following year. This enables us to be the best possible stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us.

## Who decides how money at Hope Church is used?

In October each year, the Hope Church Ministry team holds a staff planning conference for several days, at which the ministry plans for the coming year are prayed for, discussed and determined. These plans are then discussed with our Parish Council. The Parish Council, along with our Senior Pastor and Wardens, will approve a budget for the following year that is both financially responsible and enables us to pursue our vision and mission.

## How is my contribution used?





## Who will know?

All giving information is kept private. At Hope only our treasurer and bookkeeper have access to this information.

## Do I have to give to be a member?

No. In 2 Corinthians 9:7, Paul stresses that nobody should ever feel they are 'under compulsion' to give. At Hope there are no debt collectors! While we do encourage all of our members to be generous and our bookkeeper might even remind you about pledging with a friendly email or phone call, any member can participate in and benefit from our ministries regardless of whether they financially support us or not. The two exceptions are staff members and officeholders of Hope, as we want our leaders to be modelling Christ-like generosity.

## Is giving tax deductible?

No. Churches in Australia do not have Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status and so general giving to Hope Anglican Church is not tax deductible..

## ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OVER AND ABOVE GIVING?

Yes. Each year there will be opportunities to give over and above our regular giving at church. These will typically fall under one of the following three categories:

### 1. External Mission Partners

At Hope Church, we want to see the gospel bear fruit all throughout the world. Many of us are connected through relationship and prayers with missionaries throughout Australia and the world. There will also be organisations we are passionate to support. We couldn't possibly come together to support all of them centrally through our Hope accounts. So to this end we encourage everyone to give to External Mission Partners outside of your giving to Hope. We will have a limited number of missionaries from CMS and other mission agencies that we will formally partner with financially and in prayer. At present we partner with Howard and Michelle who are working to see the gospel go out in the Phillipines.

### 2. Special Projects / New Ministry Initiatives

From time to time, Hope will also seek to raise funds for certain projects. These may include part of the cost of the development of our building in partnership with the Sydney Diocese, the planting of new churches, or seed funding new ministry initiatives as we grow the staff team. Any new projects will be announced in October, and the relevant method of contributing to them will also be explained.

### 3. Organic Giving

At Hope, we want to be a community that loves and cares for each other. To that end, it is our prayer that church members would always be on the lookout for opportunities to be generous to others within our church community, over and above the formal structures that already exist to assist this. When a need arises, we want to be the kind of people that rejoice in the opportunity to meet these needs. We expect that this will take the form of both financial and non-financial donations.



# How can you give?

We do not presently take up a weekly offering during our gatherings. There is a cash box on the back wall of the auditorium for those who can only give in that fashion, but for most of us the best way to give is electronically. Electronically enables us to give thoughtfully and regularly which helps us at Hope plan and budget our costs.

## INTERNET BANKING

You can set up your own tithe/gift to the church account on a regular basis (weekly, fortnightly or monthly) using the bank details below. The Anglican Department of Evangelism oversees our bank accounts at present. The account below is for Hope Anglican Church only, and so all funds will be used for Hope Anglican Church.

### a. Hope General Fund

Name: Anglican Parish of Leppington  
BSB: 032 372  
Account Number: 487 725

Please use your name as the main payment reference.





## OUR STORY SO FAR

It is so easy to forget that it takes finances to make disciples.

Few people get excited about covering the cost of rent, electricity bills, staff wages and supplying the photocopier! In many ways, these feel uninspiring and disconnected from the work of ministry. But we must not forget they are a means to an end, and that the end is the urgent work of making and maturing disciples of Jesus, grounded in the hope only found in Him.

God has already used the generosity of our members to grow His kingdom. People are coming to faith in Christ and many others have reconnected to church and are growing in Him. As the years go by, it is our bold and confident prayer that God will help us see the hope of Jesus spread to every home in Sydney's new South-west. We pray that one conversation at a time, He will call thousands to Himself and grow thousands more in their love and knowledge of Him.

This is the vision we want our church to be compelled by and this is the vision we want to invite all of our members to give to. We can't wait to see what else God will do as we partner together in the work of His Kingdom!



To see the hope of  
Jesus in every home in  
Sydney's new South-west









