



CREDIT CARD or DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS

Please return to the church office in an envelope marked 'Confidential'.

I/We request and authorise St Stephens Belrose to arrange funds to be debited from my/our credit/debit card account and credited to St Stephens Anglican Church Belrose.

DEBIT:
the sum of \$ _____

(amount in words)

Type of Card: Mastercard Visa

Card Number:

Expiry Date: ____/____/____

Card Holder
Name: _____

Signature(s): _____

Date: ____/____/____

Payment Frequency (please tick)

One off Weekly Fortnightly
 Monthly Quarterly Annually

Commencing (please tick)

Immediately or on ____/____/____
until further written notice.

At St Stephens there are several ways to give:

Bank Instruction or Internet Banking (You do it.)

Regular giving is most easily and reliably facilitated by your own bank. You can do this by giving instructions to your bank or by using St Stephens account details for internet banking. Both methods are free of bank fees. *St Stephens Anglican Church Belrose : Westpac, Frenchs Forest : BSB 032 299 : Account Number 810 118.* If you want to give anonymously please specify 'giving' or 'tithe' with details of the service you attend 8am, 10am or 5.30pm. Please specify details for one off special purpose gifts eg. 'Bridge of Hope' or 'painting' etc.

Credit or Debit Card (We do it for you.)

For regular giving of a set amount via a credit or debit card you can fill in the Form attached and return it to the church office, marked 'Confidential'. Payments then take place automatically and confidentially until you decide to make any changes or to stop giving in this way. You may decide to give a basic weekly or monthly amount through Credit/Debit Card Payments for church or missions and then supplement this from time to time with one off gifts.

Weekly Envelope System

If you prefer cash and the discipline of bringing your offering to church with you each week, you might like to use the envelope system. At the back of the church you will find packs of small date stamped envelopes. There are two parts to each envelope. Pockets each for supporting St Stephens' work and missions which you designate.

Cash / Cheque

You may prefer to just place cash or a cheque into the offertory bag when it is passed around during church. All money given in this way is placed into general church funds.

Tax Deductible Giving for High School Scripture Teaching - FACE (Forest Association of Christian Education)

Giving for the purpose of providing a scripture teacher in our local school is tax deductible. You will receive a receipt and an Australian Taxation Office DGR number, which can be used to claim a tax deduction on your annual tax return. Direct giving should be to the St Stephens bank account (details above) with FACE giving specified. All cheques should be addressed to St Stephens Anglican Church Belrose with a notation as to the purpose.

Giving



Our Vision...

To be a growing community of Jesus followers known for our love, relevance and the transformation of people's lives.

Our Mission...

Loving, equipping and mobilising the people of our church;
Engaging with the needs of our local community; and
Engaging with the needs of the world.

2 Cor 9:6-7 Remember this:

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Why give to my local Church?

There are a number of good reasons why Christians give money to their local Church.

1. Stewardship

Everything we own belongs to God and we are accountable to him for the way we use it. This is emphasised in Jesus' stewardship parables (Mt 25:14-21; Lk 19:11-27), where the good steward of his master's wealth is commended while the bad steward suffers judgment. We are to use our own wealth for the work of the Kingdom of Heaven. (Lk 12:16-21; 18:18-30). When Jesus speaks of this kind of stewardship, he has in mind our whole lives, not just our money. In this sense, it is true that our use of money can be an indicator of our wider spiritual condition.

2. As an expression of humility & gratitude to God

Deut 8:17-18 reminds us that our ability to produce wealth comes from God. Financial giving is often an expression of thanksgiving to God for salvation and material abundance in this life. (Lk 12:18-21, Lk 16:10-13)

3. Our obligations to our church staff

Christians have an obligation to share all good things with those whose work it is to teach and preach. This has always been the practice of the Christian church, which found a precedent in the Old Testament temple system of priests and tithes (1 Tim 5:17-18; 1 Cor 9:3-14; Gal 6:6).

4. Gospel partnerships

We share in the gospel work of others when we partner with them financially. Not all of us are evangelists, preachers, missionaries or youth workers, but we set them free to do the job to which God has called and equipped them when we commit to supporting them financially (Phil 1:3-7; 4:10-20). Of the money given to St Stephens 10-15% is given to local Australian and overseas missions.

5. Compassion for the poor

Christians are to give generously to the poor as a demonstration of the grace God has bestowed upon us (2 Cor 8-9; Prov 19:17; 22:9). This was the practice of Christians from the very beginning, first of all to those within the Christian community, and then to all people generally (Acts 4:32-37; Gal 6:10).

6. Fleeing from Greed

Christians also give in order to free themselves from the tyranny of greed - wealth can be a trap! (Eph 5:3-10, 1 Tim 6:3-10; Jas 1:10-11; 5:1-6)

Other obligations

Christian giving also occurs in the context of other financial obligations that we have to governments (Rom 13:1-17), to our families (1 Tim 5:3-16), to be prudent (Prov 6:6-11; 27:23-27) and to support ourselves (1 Thes 4:11-12). Without ignoring these obligations, Christians are to be generous and free in their giving—for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor 9:7).

How much should I give?

The amount that you decide to give is a matter to be determined between you and God. In Old Testament times, giving towards the support of the temple system began at the level of 10% of gross income and then 'freewill', 'fellowship' and other offerings were added to that amount. In the New Testament the tithe is not commanded, rather Christians are instructed to give generously, systematically and in proportion to what they have (2 Cor 8:1-12). Being Kingdom minded we will be seeking to finance the church's work here and abroad as much as we are able. For many of us that will involve more than 10%. Another consideration is to include St Stephens in your will. So having prayerfully determined what you will give, stick to it and rejoice that you are able to share in this work.

What is the money used for?

Money given to St Stephens is used in three main ways: (i) growing the ministry of our church locally by providing staff, ministry resources and support functions; (ii) investing in buildings and equipment that effectively serve ministry functions—both for current maintenance as well as future development; and (iii) partnership with other individuals and organisations engaged in gospel ministries including educational, church planting, community development and compassionate ministries. (St Stephens has given 13% from our total giving to Engaging Our World Partners).

Thank you

Thank you for financially supporting the ministry of St Stephens. May we, together as His church, be witnesses of Jesus to the world.

DATE REVISED: JULY 2017



Giving in your Will

Another way of supporting your local church is to make provision for a gift in your will. By making a gift in your will to St. Stephens you can have the satisfaction of knowing that into the future you remain part of the work in Jesus' name here in the Forest.

When you leave a gift to St Stephens, small or large, it can finance things outside the general budget and be applied to missions or outreach programs, vital church building or equipment, and other "wish list" items.

A gift in your will can become an ongoing expression of your love for the people and mission of St Stephens, and the work of Christ in this area.

If you wish to consider this please see the Wills document on the Church website (Giving Tab) which includes advice by Diocesan Legal Services in May 2017 about appropriate wording to include in wills making a gift to the parish which you can discuss with your solicitor. Where the proposed gift is more than \$20,000, consideration should be given to making the gift to the Sydney Diocese Anglican Church Property Trust (ACPT) to be held in trust for the purposes of the parish. The ACPT, as corporate trustee, has wider investment powers than the wardens and this may be of particular relevance where it is intended that a gift be used to create a fund for investment.

Gifts in wills to a local church often involve a nominated sum of money, a % of the persons estate, or a residual gift to apply if the other beneficiaries pre decease the person making the will.

Please note that it is the church's preference that wording in a will not specify what the gift money can be spent on, as circumstances change over time, the Wardens are obliged to respect the terms of any trust, and the money may not be able to be used where it is most needed at the time.

If you would like to confidentially talk about a proposed gift in your will please contact the Rector's Warden (the Church office can give Contact details).