



Growing in faith, love and mission

2014 Pledge Day Response Form

Please tear off this page, fold in half and place in the special offering on Pledge Day or subsequently. Only the Recorder will see this form.

Name(s):

Phone:

Email:

Time and talents

I/We offer to help with:

.....

Giving:

As an expression of worship, I/we pledge to give:

\$ each **week / fortnight / month**

by means of:

Automatic Bank Payments.*

Envelopes.*

Cash. (Cash is not recommended, since you miss out on a tax refund of 33% of your giving!)

Signed:

* If you are starting to use envelopes or automatic payments, the Recorder will send you a set of numbered envelopes or the giving identity number for bank transfers as appropriate.



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Patronal Festival & Pledge Day

3rd August 2014

Timetable

20 th July	Sermon: <i>Principles of Giving</i>
27 th July	Sermon: <i>What about Tithing?</i> Leaflet issued
3 rd August	Pledges returned

Further information can be obtained from:

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During this time we have opportunities to rediscover the privilege of worshipping God through our giving. We shall remind ourselves of the many blessings we have received and experience the joy of responding to God's love with our gifts.

On Pledge Day we ask each individual/household in our church to make a financial commitment to our ministries for the year ahead.

Principles of Giving

In the last two sermons we have explored the principles of giving which we found in Paul's letters to the Corinthians and some of the background of God's expectations.

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income..." 1 Cor 16:2 (NIV)

The Bible calls us to planned, regular giving. It is no honour to God to be given an occasional tip! We are expected to plan our giving and give to him on Sundays as part of our worship. It is to be in keeping with (that is proportional) to our income.

In the Old Covenant, God's people were commanded to give a minimum of 23% to support the temple, to celebrate God's goodness and for the relief of poverty. Even before the Mosaic Covenant, Abraham gave 10% to the priest Melchizedek - and we are told that Jesus is of the same priesthood as he. The implication is surely that we should be giving in the same way to our Lord Jesus. Being under grace we should not lag behind the demands of the law.

We also saw that our giving to God comes first. We commit to a proportion according to our means and give that as the first call on our income. If we spend on everything else first, of course there will be nothing left to give to God.

"God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Cor 9:8 (NIV)

The experience of so very many Christians is that God gives us enough to give

When it comes to giving...

some people stop at nothing!



Jimmy Carter.

away and for our own needs.

It is good to review our giving regularly; our circumstances change: income may increase or decrease and we need to be realistic in our giving. However, there is another reason for a review.

A.G.M. Motion

At the A.G.M., we discussed the growth of the congregation. Last year, we averaged 138 people at Sunday services. Peter Lloyd, one of our synod representatives and formerly a Church Growth Consultant, made the point, that at this size of congregation, a second, fulltime staff member is not only needed now but was needed some while ago! We discussed the need to encourage younger families to belong and Peter told us that typically leaders will attract people aged 10 years either side of their own age. The outcome of the discussion was a unanimous motion that Vestry should prepare a job description and the parish should fund that additional worker.

Vestry has prepared that job description. In essence, we are seeking someone to minister to families and give oversight to our children's and youth work. So the challenge now is to increase our giving to allow us to move forward with this appointment.

Paul wrote, "Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means." 2 Cor 8:11 (NIV)

Our giving this year is already above budget, so we are not starting from scratch. The Treasurer estimates that we need to increase our annual income by \$680 per week to allow us to employ this person. That is an average increase of \$5.22 each per week. Practically of course, to achieve an average some give rather more.

Please take time to reflect on God's grace and the ways He has provided for you and your family; then ask Him for the grace of giving - it is close to His heart! I hope whatever your decision about financial giving to the church, it will be made after prayer and consideration.

As you pray about your pledge, he will inspire you with fresh ideas of practical service you can offer and how much he wants you to give.

We have an exciting time ahead. Thank you for your participation and the support you have given. I trust that in these weeks we will discover afresh the joy of giving and implement the vision for mission and service that God is giving us - that we may indeed be *growing in faith, love and mission!*

In His grace,

Personal Record

I offer to serve by/as:

I pledge to give: \$ each week / fortnight / month,

by: A. P. / Envelopes / Cash;

On behalf of St Stephen's Vestry, thank you for your pledge.