

## Supporting the work of the gospel at Trinity Church Adelaide and beyond

If you are new to church – or indeed just new to Trinity Church Adelaide – you’ll probably have some questions about how you can support the work of the gospel, both here and further afield.

In this leaflet we’ve tried to provide you with answers to some of the most commonly asked questions such as:

- Why should I give?
- How much should I give?
- To whom should I give?
- How does Trinity Church spend its money?
- How can I give?

If you have any questions which we haven’t answered here please speak to any member of the ministry team, the office or contact our Business Manager, Andrew Severin on 8213 7300 or by email at [andrew.severin@trinity.network](mailto:andrew.severin@trinity.network)

### Why should I give?

The principle of giving is well-established in both Old Testament and New Testament scripture.

In Old Testament times, people gave one tenth of all their produce to God in response to his generous blessings to them. This was known as the tithe. The idea of giving one tenth was practised by Abraham and Jacob (see Genesis 14 & 28) and was then made explicit in the Law of Moses.

The tenth was to be given generously with rejoicing, not begrudgingly just because it was the Law.

God then redirected the tithe from Israel to his work – to the priests and Levites, as well as those in need, such as widows and orphans.

The New Testament doesn’t lay down a percentage of income that we should give. Instead, it challenges us with the principles of generosity and love (and what could be a greater act of generosity and love than God’s sacrifice in sending his Son, Jesus, to die for us?)

Paul provided some practical advice for the Christians at Corinth:

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up so that when I come no collections will have to be made” (1 Cor 16:2)

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7)

## How much should I give?

A good starting point is to ask “how much have I received from God?” If God has sacrificed his only Son to die for us, then shouldn’t we cheerfully sacrifice all we can to serve Him?

Everyone’s situation is different, though. Some people may be in a position to give more than one-tenth; others will not be able to do so. The key messages from those extracts from Corinthians quoted above are that, as Christians, we should give:

- An amount in keeping with our income
- Cheerfully and not with reluctance

You may find the table below helpful in working out how much to give:

	Me	My spouse
Annual salary (after tax)		
Other income ( benefits, interest, dividends, etc)		
Totals		

### Grand total: \$

Then multiply the grand total by the percentage you have decided to give (for example, \$40,000 x 12%) to give your **annual** amount (in this example it would be \$4800).

If you are planning to give **monthly** then divide this figure by 12 (to give \$400 in our example) or by 52 if you are planning to give weekly (\$92.31). Whatever you decide upon, please remember to repeat the exercise when your income changes.

## To whom should I give?

In the Old Testament, the tithe was channeled by God to those who needed it – the priests and Levites – and to the poor.

In the New Testament, Christian giving is directed to meeting the needs of those who teach (Galatians 6:6) and to the poor. This means directing our giving today to support not only the ministry at Trinity Church but also the work of the gospel further afield – and to the needy.

## Ministry at Trinity Church

Firstly, some important points about ministry at Trinity Church:

- We receive **no** financial assistance from the diocese
- We do not have significant income-generating investments
- We can carry out our ministry only thanks to the generosity of our members

## How do we spend our money?

We are committed to the ministry of the gospel in Adelaide and beyond. As mentioned, we are entirely dependant on our members to support our mission, receiving no financial support from the diocese. Every year, around November, we present our Vision and Budget proposals for the year ahead and seek our members' feedback on our plans. A copy of the most recent Vision and Budget document is available from the Trinity Church office - or you can obtain one from a member of the ministry team.

## Giving beyond Trinity

We work closely with several ministry organisations and encourage our members to support them as well. We encourage you to do this directly. Please see below for details of each organization:

- Church Missionary Society (CMS) is an evangelistic organisation with missionaries throughout the world. [www.cms.org.au](http://www.cms.org.au)
- Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) supports ministry on university campuses around Australia. Several of our staff minister to the uni students on North Terrace. [www.afes.org.au](http://www.afes.org.au)
- Scripture Union (SU) works with families in Australia and helps them to understand the importance of the Bible. They are particularly involved in schools ministry. [www.su.org.au/sa](http://www.su.org.au/sa)
- Bush Church Aid (BCA) supports the development of evangelical churches in remote parts of Australia. [www.bushchurcaid.com.au](http://www.bushchurcaid.com.au)
- Bible College of South Australia (BCSA) trains people for gospel ministry. [www.biblecollege.sa.edu.au](http://www.biblecollege.sa.edu.au)
- City Bible Forum, which seeks to evangelise workers with the good news of Jesus. [www.citybibleforum.org](http://www.citybibleforum.org)

There are many other organisations you may wish to support, but we suggest that 70-75% of your gift should be directed to supporting your home church ministry.

## How should I give?

There are 5 main methods of giving:

- Direct debit
- Credit card
- Direct credit
- Envelopes (cash or cheque)
- Open plate

The first three are preferred as they are the most convenient to give, the simplest to administer and they reduce our risk in handling cash.

Each method is described in more detail below:

### **Direct credit**

You arrange through your bank to transfer funds from your account to ours. The account to be used is:

**Account Name:** Friends of Trinity Trust - City  
**BSB 065 000 Account Number 1174 1120.**

### **Direct debit**

You complete a direct debit form to allow Trinity to debit an agreed amount from your bank account at an agreed frequency.

Direct debit forms are available from the Welcome Tables or by contacting the Trinity Church office.

### **Credit card**

You authorise Trinity to debit an agreed sum from your credit card account on the 15th day of each month. (Please note that we are charged a fee if you use this facility).

### **Envelopes (cash or cheque)**

You can obtain regular giving envelopes by contacting the Trinity Church office on 8213 7300 or by completing a communication slip at one of our gatherings.

The money you put in the envelope goes to Trinity, except for 16% which is paid to support the work of the diocese. If you would prefer all of your gift to go to Trinity, then write the letters "FTT" on the envelope.

### **Open plate**

Gifts can also be made by placing cash or cheques in the collection bags which will come round during our gatherings. Unless you indicate otherwise 16% of your gift will go to the diocese.

## **Another way you can help financially**

There is one other way you may also be able to help financially:

### **Bequests**

- One way you can continue to support ministry after you die is to leave a bequest. For more information, please contact the Business Manager