

PARISH GIVING PROGRAMME 2023



**CHRIST CHURCH Papakura &
ST MARGARET, Karaka**

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We are acutely aware that this information only addresses the financial costs and the financial giving of the parish. We are well aware that people give in 'time and talent' and we are grateful for this.

PARISH FINANCES

The running of any church is a costly business, and our parish is no exception. There are the many basic costs such as paying for the vicar and staff, maintenance of our buildings and consumables.

We also pay

- a Parish Quota and Levy - \$850 per month which assists with the central costs of running the Diocese;
- to Missions - \$500 per month; &
- other areas of need beyond our community, e.g. the foodbank

We are a self-supporting enterprise. We get no outside funding. So, unless we find the monies we need to cover our costs we will be unable to continue doing the things we do.

In recent years the Vestry has attended carefully to keeping costs and expenditure down. We believe that we have done that task faithfully and well. It is now time for us to review and recommit to our financial giving to the parish.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." *Acts 20:35.*

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ABOUT PARISH FINANCIAL GIVING

Parish giving is everything we are, everything we do, every dollar we spend, every moment we live. It is all this because we live in God's creation, and we have been made stewards of it.

In Genesis 1:26 God said: *"Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth"*.

From this beginning we have accepted our role as stewards of God's estate.

In the New Testament, the idea of stewardship is enlarged. Paul speaks of the Christian community in

- 1 Corinthians 4:1, as *"servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries"*
- 1 Corinthians 3:9, Paul speaks of Christians as *"fellow workers for God"*.
- 1 Peter 4: 10, says *"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received"*.

PARISH GIVING

STATE OF FINANCES

We can only use capital for new capital expenditure items for the parish, this can include projects but not for the running costs of the parish.

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STATUS OF PARISH FINANCIAL GIVING

It is of interest (and may concern you) to note the history of giving since 2021. We cannot do further comparison because of COVID.

2021 monthly		2022 monthly	
Income:- Giving	\$9799	Income:- Giving	\$9835
Hall Hire etc	\$3346	Hall Hire etc	\$3527
TOTAL:	\$13,145	TOTAL:	\$13,362
Expenses: monthly	\$13,235	Expenses: monthly	\$11,563
Expenses Capital Total:	nothing spent	Expenses Capital/month	\$5011
SURPLUS	\$90 mth	SURPLUS	\$1799 mth
		Capital left a deficit of	\$3212 per mth
2023 monthly to 31 August			
Income:- Giving	\$5872	Expenses: monthly	\$13,607
Hall hire:	\$3051	Expenses Capital Total	\$14,700 to date
TOTAL	\$8923		
DEFICIT	\$4679 mth	Capital Deficit	\$1962
Total Deficit	\$6641		

In summary, therefore, in 2023 we can expect our total costs for the parish to be approximately \$163,200 per annum.

At the present rate of giving we cannot afford a full time vicar, and yet we have three churches, St Margaret's, The Selwyn Chapel and Christ Church plus the vicarage and rental to maintain as well. With estimated earnings, including everything extra from hirage to be \$108,000 for 2024. An annual deficit of \$55,000 without any capital expenditure. Everything we have in the bank will be used up in two years.

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FUTURE COSTS

We need to look at what our costs are in our parish. Costs come in two separate components:

- Cost of the vicar & staff – the cost of the vicar is set by the Diocese and each ministry unit pays the Diocese a fixed levy and quota each month. We also pay an Administrator and non-stipendiary clergy costs, this includes a vicarage as per Diocesan requirements.
- Other necessary parish costs include: Rates, power, water, insurance, etc.

As wages and pensions have increased 6.5% plus, we are asking if you can think of increasing your giving by 5%. Every little bit helps.

The budget for 2024 is worked out on the offerings of 2023.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? – the 3 Rs

First we would simply like you to review your own financial giving to the parish. We believe that your giving needs to be **realistic**. We have tried to realistically outline the parish situation above.

We would then ask that you consider making your giving, whatever that is, **regular**. It helps the Vestry to be good stewards of the church's finances if income is regular rather than haphazard.

Finally we would ask that you make your giving something you do **readily**. We would hope that you would feel that you give in response to God's blessings in your own life. Our hope is that some will decide that they can readily increase their giving. We want to be a community that is known for its generosity - a people who give readily (in a whole variety of ways) in response to God's generosity to us. Such generosity has been a feature of Christians down the centuries and it has certainly been a feature of this parish in the past.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35.

So we hope that what **you** do in response to this material is **realistic, regular,** and something that you do **readily.**

One author, who has written extensively on stewardship, puts things succinctly: *“Christian stewardship can then be defined as:*

- ❖ *all that I do*
- ❖ *with all that I have been given / blessed with*
- ❖ *after I say “I believe”.*

WAYS TO GIVE

- ❖ **Automatic Bank Payment**
- ❖ **Envelope Scheme**
- ❖ **Special Donation** – sometimes circumstances enable people to make a special donation, e.g. annual tax rebate.
- ❖ **Tax Rebate** – *giving to the church is tax deductible and for the above three ways of giving we will give you a receipt at the end of the financial year. If you could give this back to the church each year, that would be a significant help.*
- ❖ **Bequests** – you may wish to discuss this with your lawyer.
- ❖ **Weekly Cash Offering** – you can put cash in the weekly collection in church, but you cannot claim a tax rebate as we do not know who the cash comes from.

If you want to start giving in a different way or to change the way you give, please speak to Lianne, the Administrator or Mary Amoores, the People’s Warden.

We finish with the Parish Prayer and a Stewardship Prayer for us to use.

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35.

Parish Prayer

Holy Spirit, come.
Enter our hearts and lives
so our faith may grow.
Open our eyes to opportunities
you place before us.
May we show joyful love and service
to each other and our community.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A Stewardship Prayer

Creator God, giver of life and source of freedom,
we recognise that yours “is the earth and its fullness;
the world and those who dwell in it”.
It is from your hands that we have received all we have
...and areand will be.
Gracious and loving God,
you call us to be the stewards of your abundance,
the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us.
Help us to use your gifts wisely and to share them generously.
May our stewardship be a genuine reflection of our discipleship,
a tangible sign of our commitment to Christ.
We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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