



31/01/2016

Dear

Thank you for your continuing involvement in the Worshipping Community of Darlington-Bellevue. Your prayer, time and money over the last year has enabled us to:

- offer low-cost parenting and relationship programs to the local community in partnership with Anglicare;
- give 24 buckets and a dozen bootloads of household supplies to Koolkuna Womens' Refuge to support survivors of domestic violence;
- boost the literacy of children at Clayton View Primary School, support Chaplains at local schools, and welcome parents and toddlers to *Mainly Music*;
- give \$2600 to international aid through TEAR and \$1000 to support children's nutrition at Al Ahli hospital in Gaza;
- provide food for struggling families in our community in partnership with Anglicare's foodbank in Midland;
- advocate for just treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, and support action to slow the effects of climate change.

We are a community with a strong focus on loving and serving our world. This focus is sustained by our shared commitment to learning, liturgy, prayer and hospitality. All these activities are sustained by your giving.

At the start of each year, we write with an invitation to review your financial giving. This year, we are also inviting you to review your gifts of time and talents. Christian giving is not just about money, but about giving our whole selves to God. This includes our time, and the gifts and abilities that God has given us.

At a time when the general economic situation might not look encouraging, it is perhaps particularly appropriate for us to review our financial priorities. Church Council manages the budget very carefully, but costs inevitably increase each year. Our financial situation has improved over the last few years, to the extent that we now anticipate a 'break-even' budget for the second year in a row. Last year, 45 households committed \$96,448 to ensure our financial sustainability. If you are not currently a Planned Giver, we strongly encourage you to become one. Giving can be done electronically or by cash/cheque placed in the collection.

We recognise that financial and time commitments change. This annual review is a chance to consider your commitment in the light of your current circumstances. This might include increasing or decreasing your financial giving, making no change to your giving, taking up a new task in the church community, or relinquishing a task. If you are new to Planned Giving, you could start by giving a small amount regularly. If you are already a Planned Giver, it may help you to know that our expenses inevitably increase by around 3% per year due to inflation. If, for example, you've been giving the same dollar amount for some years, the amount in real terms has reduced over that time.



We invite you to return the enclosed YELLOW form with an indication of your giving for the coming year. If you are interested in a particular task or role, please indicate on the form. You will be provided with training and support. You can discuss this further with Father Chris. The form also includes space to indicate your financial giving for the coming year. Please return the form to the YELLOW box inside the door of the Parish Centre. At the Eucharist on Sunday 13 March, the forms will be prayerfully laid on the altar as a sign of thanksgiving for God's generosity to us our response.

On the BLUE page are some **Frequently Asked Questions** about our parish finances. If you would like more information about income and expenditure, please contact our Treasurer, James Saunders.

Thank you for taking the time to consider your giving for the coming year. Together, our giving helps build a church which glorifies God and serves God's people.

Yours sincerely,

*James Saunders*  
Treasurer

*Jill Mackenzie*  
Assistant Treasurer

*Jan Carroll*  
Warden

*Jim Andrusiak*  
Warden



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **How much does it cost to fund ‘the basics’ of a Worshipping Community?**

It costs around \$125,000 per year, or \$10,000 per month. That sounds like a lot of money, but it's approximately the cost of half a classroom in a public school, one third of a bed in a public hospital, or one prisoner in a prison. Some of our costs are met by ‘in-kind’ giving.

### **How is the money spent?**

For each dollar,

**66c** provides a stipend (living wage) for the Rector (including a housing expenses)

**19c** covers administrative costs, utilities, cleaning, insurances and rates

**10c** covers property repairs and maintenance

**9c** is spend on ministry resources

**16c** is given to support Diocesan youth ministry, training of new clergy, chaplains for prisons and hospitals and social justice advocacy. This is called ‘The Assessment’

### **Who pays for the Bishops and the staff in Church Office?**

The Archbishop and his staff are funded entirely from an Endowment. The property, finance, professional standards staff, and some ministry support staff, are funded by a Trust.

### **Who pays for the charities and schools?**

The schools and charities are funded by a mix of donations, fees, investment income and government grants. We don't fund them directly. Families enrolled at Anglican schools also make a contribution to The Assessment.

### **Why doesn't ‘The Diocese’ give us money?**

No Anglican Diocese in Australia funds individual parishes. We work on a very different system to the Church of England. Each Worshipping Community funds its own expenses.

### **Why do so many people put nothing in at the Collection?**

The majority of regular worshippers give electronically. You can join them by picking up a direct debit form, arranging for a regular funds transfer or giving by credit card.

### **Aren't we eligible for government funding?**

From time to time, we receive small grants for community development work or to maintain our heritage-listed property. No Australian government funds religious groups, however we are GST-exempt, clergy have a Fringe Benefits Tax exemption, and we receive a discount on Council rates.