

## Stewardship

As people of God, we understand that God has given us everything we have and everything we are as gifts. It is through God's love that we live in this beautiful world, have families and friends, and have heard the Good News in Jesus Christ. God has called us to be stewards of these gifts. God trusts us to care for these gifts and to use them to share his love.

Stewardship is how we spend our TIME, how we spend our financial resources or TREASURES and how we use our TALENTS.

**Stewardship is everything I do after I say 'I believe'.**



# REBUILD MY CHURCH



## STEWARDSHIP 2011 SECTION 1

One of the big turning points in the life of St Francis of Assisi was the occasion when Christ spoke to him from the crucifix in the dilapidated Church of San Damiano. The voice of Christ said, "Francis, go and repair my Church which as you see is wholly in ruin."

St Francis replied, "Lord, I will repair it." Christ was not talking about the Church building but the spiritual foundation of our lives. Christ calls us to be the people of God and to repair and rebuild our Church.

What can you do to rebuild the Church?  
What skills can you bring to the Church?

## Rebuilding our Church Our Approach to Stewardship

A regular gift to the Church helps us to recognise what we really value and treasure in our life. When this gift is meaningful and given in good spirit - then that is "Stewardship"

Our gift is a freewill offering given so that the church may continue to be an active part of the community and that future generations will know that we cared.

We are asking you make a free will weekly commitment. All we ask is that each of us will do our best to make a meaningful commitment according to our own circumstances and that through regular contributions, help give our church financial stability and a chance to rebuild. Your commitment will help to ensure that we hand on to future generations, a Parish which is vibrant and economically sustainable".

Unlike in past years, your commitment was confidential between you and the Parish Recorder, it will now be know only to you and God. However, to help us with budgeting, it would be appreciated if you could complete the form on the back of this document. You will notice that there is nowhere for you to identify yourself.

**ANGLICAN PARISH OF ESSENDON  
CHRIST CHURCH ESSENDON  
[www.essendonanglican.org.au](http://www.essendonanglican.org.au)**



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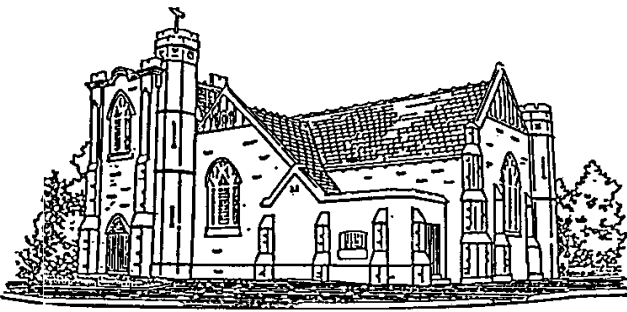
## For the Past

Our churches did not appear overnight. They exist because of the commitment and determination of those before us.

Previous generations built our churches and ensured that a priest could be present to strengthen the community of faith. They were good stewards of their resources.

Now we have inherited their legacy. It is our turn to take up the torch.

When we make a commitment to the Church, we make a commitment to preserve what our forebears gave us, and to hand it on to future generations.



## For the Community

There are many in our Community who are Anglicans. They may only attend at Christmas or Easter. Or we may only see them for baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Many of these people are our relatives and friends.

As a Parish, our responsibility is to care for these people. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

When we give to the Church, we ensure that there is a Priest in our community. He can offer the care of the Church when it is needed.

Most importantly, any contact with these people may be a door, which helps them re-enter the life of the Church. As active Anglicans, we need to always make sure that these people know the Church, and all it has to offer, is there for them.

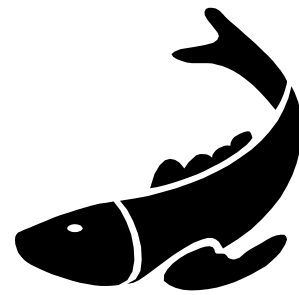
## For Yourself

We live in an age when many people place too great an emphasis on objects and possessions.

When we give to the Church, we teach ourselves to let go of our possessions. We place our material objects in their proper perspective.

When we give we must let go of what we have. If we let go of a significant part of our resources, then it is easier to see what is really important in life - our relationship with God and our relationship with friends and family.

A gift to the Church helps us to recognize what we really value and treasure in our life. It is sharing our resources in a meaningful way.



Two men went fishing. One man was an experienced fisherman, the other wasn't. Every time the experienced fisherman caught a big fish, he put it in his ice chest to keep it fresh. Whenever the inexperienced fisherman caught a big fish, he threw it back.

The experienced fisherman watched this go on all day and finally got tired of seeing this man waste good fish. "Why do you keep throwing back all the big fish you catch?" he asked. The inexperienced fisherman replied, "I only have a small frying pan."

Sometimes, like that fisherman, we throw back the big dreams, big opportunities that God gives us. Our faith is too small. We laugh at the fisherman who didn't figure out that all he needed was a bigger frying pan; yet how ready are we to increase the size of our faith?

