

## **Memorials Policy**

People give to the Church in various ways. One way is by giving money beyond tithes and offerings. This may be by donation or bequest. Sometimes it is for a particular aspect of the Church's life. Knox Church normally recognises such giving by letter of appreciation to the donor or representative.

At Knox Church there are acknowledgements of extraordinary events and gifts in the form of stained glass windows, tablets affixed to walls, metal plaques on furniture and walls and garden planting. These relate to former ministers of Knox, to exceptional events or to the two world wars.

The Presbyterian Church has put value on giving being anonymous, reflecting Jesus' words that our piety is not to be a matter of public display. Further, the Church is for all people and the gospel discourages giving greater honour to people who may have more resources or influence. In light of the Church's history of patriarchy, a pattern of special recognition can make it appear or feel as if the Church primarily recognises the achievements of men and the generosity of people of wealth.

In light of the general approach of the church over time and the teaching of Jesus, gifts to the church will not normally be publicly acknowledged in the building or the grounds. They will be treated anonymously without naming rights. Once the gift is made and received, the terms of the gift will be actioned according to its terms and the Church will attend to the gift at its discretion. If the gift has associated with it a requirement that particular continuing actions are taken inconsistent with the decisions the Church would ordinarily make about its life and mission or that might limit the future decisions the Church Council might wish to make concerning its life and mission, normally the gift will be declined.

In other than normal circumstances, at the discretion of the Church Council, a gift may be publicly acknowledged.

31 July 2019