

**St Matthew's & St Nathanael's**

# **'Giving to Grow'**



## **Financial Giving for 2019**

*"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God makes it grow". (the apostle Paul, 1 Corinthians 3:6)*

# 1. Why do we give?

We give because God has been so generous in His giving to us; we express our thankfulness for God's love as we give to Him and His work. We give in order to supply the needs of God's work, not only in this parish, but wherever we can, so that God is glorified both in our community and our world today.

We are simply stewards of all that God has blessed us with, whether time, money, or skills, and give back to Him what He has given us already.

## 2. Our Aims

To restore our parish income levels to levels where we have sufficient recurring monthly and annual income to cover our parish administration, our development of young children, young people, and families and outreach work, and increased parish giving to our wider Christian mission and missionary work, within our Diocese and further afield.

### 3. Where our money would go in 2019

#### Proposed Expenditure for 2019

(here is the high-level summary):

	<b>2019 Budget</b>	<b>Per Week</b>
Staff Costs	£40,437	£778
Building Property Costs	£24,320	£468
Mission Support	£11,134	£214
Parish Share	£72,500	£1,394
Other Running Costs	£10,470	£201
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>£158,861</b>	<b>£3,055</b>

Income to support this (based on recent trends and 2018 figures)

	<b>2019 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Per Week</b>
Standing Orders	£78,688	£1,513
Other Donations & Income	£8,160	£157
Gift Aid tax recovered	£20,212	£389
Grant for Youth Worker	£8,000	£154
Church Lettings	£25,000	£481
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£140,060</b>	<b>£2,693</b>

**We therefore need to increase our giving by £18,800, or £352/week ,to meet this initial budget.**

**To make a substantial contribution to these aims and begin to restore our church finances, we estimate that we should aim to raise at least an additional £20,000 in 2019, equivalent to an additional £384 per week**

***“We believe that, with God’s help, we can exceed this figure, securing both our parish finances now and for the future and also restoring our contributions to the wider mission and ministry of the Church”***

### **What can each person give?**

The response to God’s love for us, that each person gives, is deeply personal. In any community, we know that there are those who can afford a greater or lesser financial sum.

**Each one of us comes before God for ourselves.**

The Bible says that giving should be a response from our hearts.

For some, who give a small sum, this may be a much bigger financial sacrifice than for others who give a large sum. The opposite is also true.

Each of us should prayerfully consider:

*“What am I able to give?”*

***‘Our gifts are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And our God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen (Philippians 4.19-20)***

## 4. How can we give?

There are many ways to give, including monthly standing order, Sunday offerings, one-off gifts, and special fund-raising.

Particularly effective and helpful ways of giving are:

### **Planned Giving**

One of the principal ways in which any growing and thriving church can confidently move forward, is by constantly increasing **Planned Giving**, i.e. regular monthly giving through a Standing Order.

**The more regular and reliable the giving, the more we can confidently plan our mission and development.**

*The parish has had two years of declining levels of giving, especially in Planned Giving. This is a vital area in our ability to respond to the challenges we face.*

**Tax Efficient Giving** is also an important way of sensibly maximising our church income.

- If you are a taxpayer, **for every £1 you give, the church can claim 25p additionally** from the Government if the giving is '**Gift Aided**'. Automatically, your giving is worth **25% more!!** It makes sense, doesn't it ?
- '**Standing Order**' giving is the easiest way to set this up and is '**tax efficient**' if you complete a simple, one-time-only **Gift Aid form**, i.e. the Church can claim the tax back from the Government if you are a taxpayer, on all your donations, whether regular or irregular

### **Legacies**

Have you considered leaving a gift to the church in your will? This is a very simple process. Please ask if you would like further information.

## 5. How can you help?

### **(a) By Prayer**

Firstly please pray about your own personal level of financial commitment, according to your financial means.

Remember the words of St. Paul to the Philippian Christians, when he said, ***“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”*** (Philippians 4:6-7)

### **(b) Consider your response to the needs of our church**

Please especially consider regular ‘Planned Giving’. A continuing increase in this type of giving would have a substantial impact on our church finances and our ability to plan ahead in responding to all the opportunities for Christian work in our communities, and help our path back to growth.

You can do this by beginning planned giving through a regular monthly Standing Order, or considering whether you might be able to make a one-off gift, possibly additional to your regular giving.

**If this is something you don't yet do, please can we encourage you to seriously consider this commitment?**

### **(c) Fill in the ‘Pledge’ enclosed**

Please fill in the form whether starting new giving now or whether renewing your personal commitment to existing financial giving.

**(d) If you are a taxpayer, please also complete and sign the 'Gift Aid' Declaration on the cream-coloured form.**

This only needs to be done if we don't already have a Gift Aid form for you.

**(e) Return the Forms**

Put your form in an envelope and place it in the box at the back of church after services, or give direct to our treasurer Andrew Wood, addressed to 'Andrew Wood' and marked '**Personal Giving.**' (*addressed to St Matthews Church Office, Clare Road, Kingsdown, BS6 5TB, if posted*)

**It would help us if you could return the forms by  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February if you are able.**

We shall have a Thanksgiving Service for all God's gifts and love for us on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.**

**Please use the enclosed envelope, marked  
'My Stewardship Pledge'**

***N.B. All giving commitments are strictly confidential  
and will only be seen by the Church Treasurer***

**If you have ANY questions, please speak to either:**

- Andrew Wood, Treasurer (tel. 07808 143695 or email [andrewwood@woodshap.org.uk](mailto:andrewwood@woodshap.org.uk)) or;
- Ian Tomkins, Vicar (Tel Church Office: 0117 944 1598) [vicar@stmatthews-bristol.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmatthews-bristol.org.uk)

***Jesus said, 'This is to my father's glory,  
that you bear much fruit, showing  
yourselves to be my disciples.'***

*(John 15.8)*