



St. Matthew's Church, Perth

Special Appeal

November 2024

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU – GIFT MONTH IN NOVEMBER

Yes, and there is no apology for having another Gift Month this year. The facts are quite simple. Rising costs – including energy – are not just affecting us as individuals. It affects what we in St Matthew's can do.

Once again, we are heading for a deficit in 2024 – our income is less than our expenditure. The Session has set a very strict set of rules to rein in expenditure as much as possible. The work being done on the outside of the building is being funded by grants which we have raised from the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland.

At the Annual Stated meeting in June our Treasurer John Dewar explained that the budget approved by the Kirk Session for the year ending 31 December 2024 (excluding the flat) shows a deficit of £21,696. This is based on actual known amounts where available and estimates based on previous year's income an expenditure adjusted for any known elements which may alter the figures for 2024. And that budget forecast hasn't changed.

The major increases in expenditure are in Giving To Grow (£11,720) and heat and light (£9,000). Giving To Grow is set nationally by the Church of Scotland and includes our contribution to minister costs. The increase would have been £23,990 were we not granted transitional relief of £12,270 by Perth Presbytery. By its very nature this relief will not be available after 2025. There is also no guarantee that St. Matthew's will be granted this relief in 2025.

So we are therefore asking you – once again – to treat November as a special Gift month for extra giving. Please to donate whatever they feel able to give to allow St. Matthew's to continue to flourish. We realise that times are hard for everyone but please give as generously as you are able.

If at all possible, we would ask that your gift be made by BACS transfer, marking it "Gift Month" to the following account:-

Account Name: St. Matthew's Church

Sort Code: 83-47-00

Account Number: 00760133

If you are unable to make your donation in this way you can do so by cheque or cash in the offering plate on any Sunday or by sending your donation to St. Matthew's Church, Tay Street, Perth PH1 5LQ. Your donation can also be made using the card machine situated at the front of the church as you enter.

Paying by these methods can also be done with gift aid added. If using the blue envelopes or the card reader you can do so by entering the appropriate details. If you are a taxpayer but have not previously registered for the gift aid scheme please consider doing so now.

We would also ask all members who are able to consider increasing their current regular givings by standing order or whichever method you use. If you wish to pay by bank standing order the account details are as above. If you are a taxpayer please consider making your donation under gift aid. This does not cost you any more but allows the church to reclaim the tax amount equivalent to 25% of your givings.

For further information on adding gift aid to your regular givings or your gift month donation please speak to our Treasurer, John Dewar (07774438647 or 01738 631359) or our Gift Aid Convenor, Evelyn McLaren (07974938330 or 01738 626377).

If we cannot increase our income significantly then the long term future of St. Matthew's Church may be in doubt. For this reason we would ask that you give this article serious thought and prayer.

St. Matthew's Church Kirk Session