

St Matthew's

1. Why Should We Give Money to the Church?

Giving is our thankful response to God for His love for us, an expression of our love for Him, and is part of our worship. It should be a prayerful response of the heart. The Bible teaches that everything we have belongs to God and has been entrusted to us by Him (1 Chronicles 29: 14b); so when we give to God we demonstrate our recognition of this fact.

The Old Testament in the Bible establishes the concept of tithing, whereby God's people give 10 per cent of their income back to Him; He encourages us not to short-change Him in this (Malachi 3: 10).

In the New Testament Jesus encourages this practice of tithing, to show how our lives can reflect our love for God, and teaches that we should not become legalistic or mechanistic about it (Luke 11: 42). Today, when we give willingly like this, in proportion to our income, it allows us to be a part of God's economy whether we are rich or poor in the world's eyes. Tithing to God, through the church, enables the church to be effective in its worship, work and witness.

And giving is good for us; we get blessed when we give (Acts 20: 35).



Love



These pages are taken from our leaflet 'Money Matters'. Full copies are available at the back of church or from the Parish Office

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St Matthews Church is part of St Matthew's with St Luke's PCC, Oxford.
Registered Charity number: 1128916

Why and How to Give

2. How Can We Give Money to the Church?

It is important that we give regularly to the church (not just when we think we can spare a bit) because the money we give goes to sustain and expand its activities. This includes paying our staff, maintaining our buildings so they continue to be used effectively, and supporting mission work both inside and outside our parish.

We recommend our members to give in either of the following ways:

- **Bank Standing Order:** if you have a bank account, a standing order is the best way to give to St Matthew's. You don't have to remember to pay each month, and it helps us to plan our budget. You decide how much you want to give and when you want to give it. This is by far the most efficient and popular way of regular giving and it is easy to start. A form can be downloaded from our website.



- **Envelopes:** if you prefer, we can give you a supply of dated envelopes in which to bring your gift to church.



Give-as-you-earn (GAYE) is another tax-efficient method of giving which some employers support. The money is deducted by your employer from your pay and sent to the church's bank via the GAYE scheme. If you would like to use this method, your employer will need our GAYE registration number: 216480.

We can also accept **CAF** (Charities Aid Foundation) vouchers.

So What Do I Do Now?



- 1 Pray; consider your finances carefully, and discuss with God how much it is right for you to give to Him. For many people, this is a hard aspect of their faith, so prayer is important. And although we are encouraged to keep the details of our giving secret (Matthew 6: 4) it is often a good idea to chat the principles through with wise Christian friends.



- 2 Decide on how much it is right for you to give at present, and which of the two methods of regular giving outlined on page 2 you would prefer.



- 3 Either fill in the Bank Standing Order form, or contact the Church Office to request a supply of envelopes.
- 4 If you are a tax-payer, complete the Gift Aid Declaration form. One form signed now will cover all your future giving.
- 5 Make a mental note now (or put it in your diary) to review your decision regularly.

Other Matters

Gift Aid

+25%!!

If you are a tax-payer you can increase the value of your gift by 25 per cent simply by completing a Gift Aid Declaration. This entitles St Matthew's to reclaim the tax that you have already paid on the money you give to us. A form is attached to the Bank Standing Order that can be downloaded from our website; if you haven't completed one already, please do so now and return the form to the Church Office.

Legacies



For the longer term, please do consider whether or not you are able to leave a gift to our church in your will. The rise in house prices means that, if you own your own home, even a small proportion could amount to thousands of pounds and make a real difference to us. And legacies to any charity (including the church) reduce the inheritance tax that has to be paid. Speak to our treasurer who can give you the wording of a brief codicil to be added to your will; there is no need for it to be completely re-written.

Do You Have Money Problems?



Many of us struggle with our finances. Often we find we just don't seem to have enough to survive; others struggle with having too much. How we spend our money can be a source of confusion and worry, and it can affect our relationships with our family and friends, as well as with God. If you are feeling overwhelmed by your financial situation, or if you are struggling with debts, or if you would simply like advice in preparing a budget to help you control your money, please don't suffer in silence! And don't hope the problem will just go away. Instead, have a quiet word with our vicar, or one of the church wardens, or our treasurer. They will be able to put you in touch with some real help. It is not God's will that we struggle; Jesus came to bring life in all its fullness (John 10: 10).