

www.st-matthias-church.org

'Give to God' Sunday
Sunday 27 September 2015

Welcome!

*We are delighted to see you, especially if this is your first visit.
 Please do join us for refreshments in the hall after the 10.30am service.*

Sunday 27 September

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Prayzone in the Hall
10.30am	Morning Worship in church

During the Week

Mon	12.15pm Funeral of Sarah Sennett followed by refreshments
Tues	9am Morning Prayer
	9.30-11.30am 'Open House' Parents & Toddlers - the Lounge
Wed	9am Holy Communion followed by coffee in the Lounge
	6-7pm Prayer Meeting – Rose Price room – note new time
Thurs	10.30-11.30am Prayer Meeting - the Ark
	5.30-7pm Harvest Choir rehearsal in the church
Sat	10.30-2.30pm Blackberry & Apple Fayre – church & hall

Sunday 4 October

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Breakfastzone in the Hall
10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)

Collect

Gracious God,
 you call us to fullness of life:
 deliver us from unbelief
 and banish our anxieties
 with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

What's On & News

Paul, Dan, Matthew, Chris, Anne and Barry want to thank the church family for the host of cards, messages, flowers and hugs we have received since losing Sarah. The support of the family at St Matthias, in so many ways over the last four and a half years, has made an enormous difference. We can't thank you enough – but we shall go on trying.

The youth bank are having a sponsored sleepover on the 10th-11th October 2015 where they will be giving up technology and trying a range of challenges related to the persecuted church. If you would like to come please speak to Tessa Barton or Ruth Jones or email Ruth, ruth.stmatthias@gmail.com. If you have any boardgames that we can borrow for this sleepover can you let Ruth know ASAP please? Many thanks!!

Anode Thank you for your ongoing support of Anode. In the last year they have given out 2100 emergency parcels to local families who would otherwise have nothing. Further donations welcomed especially in time for Harvest.

TORQUAY CELEBRATE WEEKEND 2015! 17th & 18th October at St Cuthbert Mayne School Torquay TQ1 4RN with Charles Whitehead, David Wells, Rev. Russ Parker (former Director of Acorn Healing Foundation), Jenny Baker and even more workshops to choose from this year! More details and booking form soon to be available on the Celebrate website:

www.celebrateconference.org

We hope to see you there. Every blessing, Torquay Celebrate Core Team

Torbay Deanery Evensong 11 October at 6.30pm at St John's Church, Torquay with the choir and organists of Exeter Cathedral.

The autumn edition of the church family magazine is available today! Please take a copy home.

The church family contacts list will be published very soon. Watch this space!

Do you remember the recent Street Pastors' visit? It's good to know their work is appreciated and well done to Trevor Staveley who has just won the 2015 Local Heroes award. Have you thought any more about whether God is calling you to give this ministry a try?

Summary of Financial Situation at St Matthias

During the 5 years up to 2013 we built up a cumulative deficit of some £70,000 and, to remain solvent, we had to draw heavily on our Reserves, thus substantially depleting them. In 2014 we thankfully saw a reversal of this trend, so that, excluding legacy income (for which we are extremely grateful – and indeed have needed for anything other than routine costs), our giving just slightly exceeded our expenditure.

Encouraged by this response, the PCC have just taken the courageous and faithful step of giving away 10% of our regular income (up until now it has been about 6%) to a range of Christian charities. This is one key way that together, as a church, we can extend God's kingdom beyond the boundaries of St Matthias'. As a church, we want to be generous to others as God is generous to us.

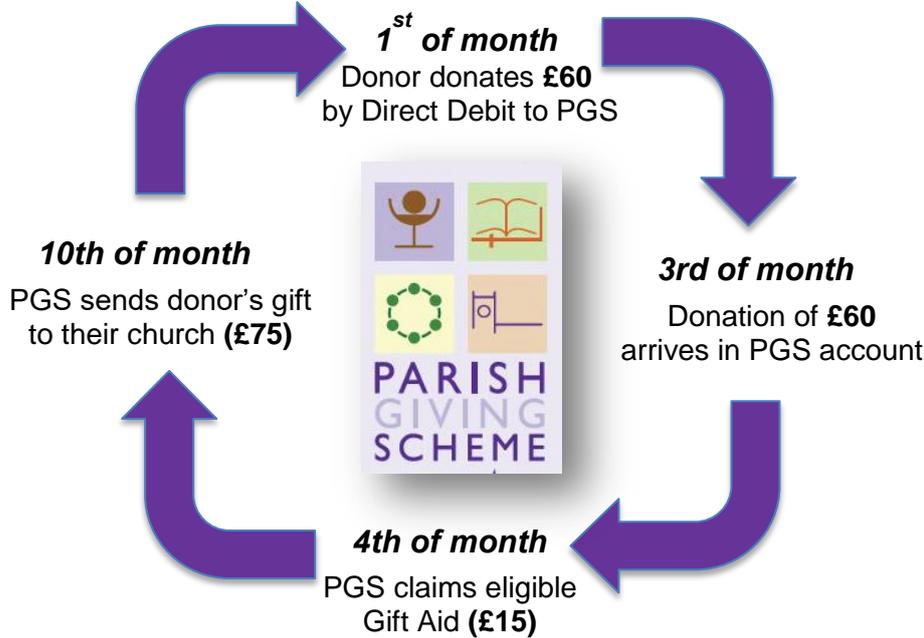
However, looking at the figures for this year to the end of August and subtracting legacy income (even higher this year), the situation is almost identical to the same period in 2014. Although we have seen a modest increase in voluntary giving this alone is not enough to make a substantial improvement to our Balance Sheet. ***The challenge for all church members is, therefore, for those that do give on a regular basis, to review their levels of giving and, for those that do not, to consider whether they are able to make such a financial commitment to support St Matthias in its mission to our local and wider communities. A healthy, sustainable Balance Sheet would, potentially, enable us to do so much more than we are currently able to do!***

Our preferred method of regular giving is now the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), which a number of people have signed up for over the last few months. It would be appreciated if more people would now consider this method of giving and, accordingly, a leaflet is included in this Notice Sheet which explains the essential elements of the scheme and how to subscribe to it.

Tony Barratt (Treasurer)

The Parish Giving Scheme was developed to provide a modern solution to offset one of the greatest threats to parish income, that of static giving.

How it works – based on example of initial donation of £60 per month:



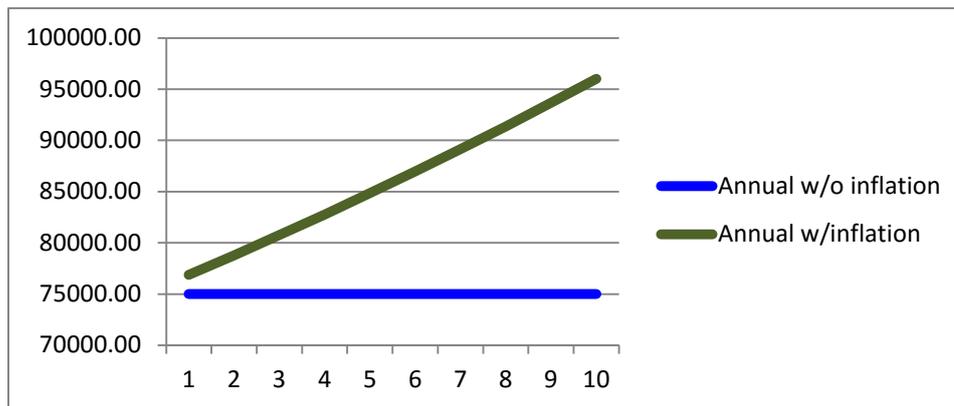
One of the major advantages of the scheme is that there is an option to increase the donation annually by the rate of inflation with no need for the donor to change instructions to their bank.

Based on the example of a **£60** per month donation, this would produce an annual income (including Gift Aid) of **£900**. The following comparison table shows the difference between maintaining this donation at the same level for 5 years and increasing it by 2.5% per annum (a typical/modest rate of inflation):

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total	Inc.
Without increase	£900	£900	£900	£900	£900	£4,500	£0
With 2.5% p.a. increase	£922	£946	£969	£993	£1018	£4,849	£349
Monthly increase	£1.50	£1.54	£1.58	£1.62	£1.66	£7.88	

Based on a projected annual Planned Giving figure of **£60,000** (total Gift Aided giving for Envelopes and Standing Orders), over the next 5 years, if inflation proofed, this would produce an extra **£29,000** for a relatively small increase per donor. Over a longer period the increased income becomes even more dramatic.

The chart shows the annual income figures with and without inflation. The cumulative additional income over this 10 year period amounts to a staggering **£111,000!!** All achieved with inflation proofing of donations.



Apart from the inflation proofing element that this scheme provides there are also several other benefits:

- **Gift Aid administration carried out on our behalf at no cost to us (currently this causes us a considerable amount of work)**
- **Gross donation (inc. G/A) paid into our church current account within 10 days (on monthly cycle)**
- **Considerably improved cash flow**
- **Direct Debit provides greater flexibility (changes much easier to implement than with Standing Orders)**
- **More predictable income stream if majority participate**
- **Option for donor to remain anonymous (within church context)**

All members of St Matthias are asked to prayerfully consider whether they are able to sign up to the scheme.

If you currently give by **Standing Order** then the transition to Direct Debit is very simple.

If you give via the **Weekly Envelope System** then it obviously involves a more substantial change but, as well as greatly benefitting the church, once the Direct Debit is set up it becomes a simpler way of making a regular donation.

If you give via the **Blue Envelopes** or the **Collection Plate** then please consider whether you could convert to this system.

***** PLEASE SEE TREASURER TONY BARRATT TO OBTAIN A DIRECT DEBIT FORM *****

Readings for Today

Malachi 3: 6-12

⁶ 'I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,' says the LORD Almighty. 'But you ask, "How are we to return?"' ⁸ 'Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. 'But you ask, "How are we robbing you?"' 'In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse – your whole nation – because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,' says the LORD Almighty. ¹² 'Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,' says the LORD Almighty.

Mark 10:17-27

¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. 'Good teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' ¹⁸ 'Why do you call me good?' Jesus answered. 'No one is good – except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honour your father and mother."' ²⁰ 'Teacher,' he declared, 'all these I have kept since I was a boy.' ²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. 'One thing you lack,' he said. 'Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.' ²² At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. ²³ Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!' ²⁴ The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' ²⁶ The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, 'Who then can be saved?' ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.'

Suggested topics to help in our private prayer time

Today	Please pray for our services today, that we may all know we have been on holy ground worshipping with an awesome Holy God.
Mon	Pray for the funeral of Sarah Sennett taking place today, thanking God for her life and witness in this church. Pray for all who mourn her passing, that they may know the peace and love of God in a tangible way.
Tues	Pray for charities in The Bay, thinking particularly of Anode and all others that seek to help people meet not only a saviour in social terms but find The Saviour who died for us all.
Wed	Pray for David and Amy Roche our C.M.S. Link Partners in their work in the Middle East. Praying for strength and wisdom in all things. Pray too for their family, both close to and the extended family.
Thurs	Pray for Paul as he starts out as a Priest. Pray for strength and wisdom as he fulfils his new ministry and responsibilities.
Fri	Pray for our emergency services; ambulance, fire, and police.
Sat	Pray for Friends of St. Matthias. Today they hold a "Blackberry and Apple Fayre" - may people be generous and may it be a happy time.
Sun	Pray for John and Ruth Beckett as they lead our church in word and action.

The Friends - Dates for your Diary

**3 Oct @ 10.30–2.30pm
Blackberry & Apple Fayre**

For more information
about this and future
events please see posters.

Start!

Wondering what life is all about? Wanting to find out more about the Christian faith?
We are going to be running a course exploring the Christian faith beginning on Monday 12 October in the evening. It's called 'START!' and will consist of 6 sessions. To find out more, please email or phone the office (details at end of this notice sheet) or have a look at www.st-matthias-church.org

HARVEST LUNCH

The Annual Harvest Lunch will take place on **Sunday 11 October** after the morning service. In order to ensure we cater for the correct numbers please sign the list on the notice board in the hall. The cost will be £6 per adult, £3 for under 14s and a family ticket for £15. This is a lovely opportunity for the church family to join together in fellowship.

JOLLYWEEN

Saturday 31 October A family party celebrating light from 5-7pm in the Hall. Fun, games, food, all welcome. *No fancy dress please.*

COACH TRIP TO CARDIFF

On **Saturday 21 November** this is a great opportunity to get some Christmas shopping, enjoy lunch and explore this lovely city. The cost is £16 pp payable in advance but please indicate your intention to join us on the list in the hall. Please speak to any Social Core Group members for more details. This is a full day event which in the past has proved to be a great day out! Cheques or cash can be handed into the office (clearly marked Cardiff) or to Sue Gray.

Social Core Group

Contacting the Church

St Matthias Church Centre, Babbacombe Road, Torquay, TQ1 1HW
Tel: 01803 214175

www.st-matthias-church.org email: pere.snow@st-matthias-church.org

Rector: John Beckett: 01803 293119 jandrbeckett@outlook.com

Curate: Paul Barton: 07807 636470 RevPaulBarton@gmail.com

