

April 2017



It is three years ago now since we held our last TRIO campaign. The name of the campaign ('TRIO') emphasises the reality that the responsibility for financing the running of St Matthew's is down to its members. We don't get grants from the government or the Diocese. In fact, we pay into the Diocese to fund God's work in less well-off parishes.

When we last ran TRIO, the 2014 budget meant that there would be a monthly shortfall of expenditure over income of more than £2,100. The campaign was particularly successful in encouraging people:

- to review their current level of giving – even if the response was 'no change' or 'not now'
- to start giving on a regular basis through Bank Standing Orders
- to increase giving which covered the projected shortfall
- to ensure giving was tax effective through Gift Aid.

Did you know we pay out over £10,500 to run our church each month? In addition, we reserve a sum to cover routine maintenance and repairs and we donate money to other charities. This is what we might call our 'bread and butter' expenditure – overall totalling £13,500 per month.



ALL RESPONSES WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL TO THE TRIO GIVING TEAM

This year the budget was prepared on that basis and results in an overall deficit for 2017 of approximately £20,000. If that estimate is right then we would need to find over **£2,200 extra giving per month** for the remaining nine months of 2017 to fund the shortfall.

But bread and butter is much better with some jam; in fact, in our case it is necessity! We have recently had the five yearly survey of



our building and this indicates that we will have a much larger sum to find for repairs to the roof, tower and spire over the next few years. It isn't everyday running costs (our bread and butter) but we will need to fund it from somewhere. We are

thinking of this as 'the jam' – not essential for every day but good to invest in. We could manage without it, but we would only be storing up problems in the future. We believe we would be failing in our duty as good stewards of what God has given us if we don't tackle this work in planned stages over the next few years. At present we don't know quite how much this might all cost, but we are taking advice and getting estimates and it could be huge! Already much of the £20,000 in the 2017 Budget for repairs and maintenance has been committed on urgent repairs and necessary survey works.

And then there is our Seven Whole Days Vision. After the joyously successful first phase of fundraising for the development, we were able to install the heating and have some money left over.



We are developing ideas of what more we might do to make St Matthew's a Seven-day-a-week church building. We need to install an accessible toilet and improve the current facilities. A porch would help so much in cutting down draughts and the Sitzler Room and the kitchen could both do with renovating; that's all before we even think about the partitions and any changes to the worship



area. So we are thinking of all this potential expenditure as 'chocolate cake'. We'd like it, but we're not sure we can have it.

The church does have savings (the investment of previous generations in our future) which we had hoped we would be able to put towards the improvements to the building ('our chocolate cake'). But, disappointingly, it looks like a larger proportion of these will, in fact, now need to be used for the necessary repairs ('our jam').

So this is where TRIO comes in. We need to build up the amount which the church can regularly spend on 'the jam' whilst ensuring that we can still cover our bread and butter costs. This is a breakdown of current regular giving:

No. of people	£ given per week	Average per Week	Total
1	Up to £0.99	£0.63	£0.63
23	£1 - £4.99	£2.65	£61.00
23	£5 - £9.99	£6.25	£143.75
24	£10 - £24.99	£18.78	£344.75
12	£25 - £49.99	£29.38	£352.50
9	£50+	£92.36	£831.25
92			£1,733.88

Through this TRIO scheme, we are asking each of us to:

**Review our giving** - When was the last time we reviewed how much we give to the church? How much do we give now as a percentage of our income? The National Church suggests that we might give away 10% of our income, 5% to church and 5% to other charities. Is that something which we can work towards? Can we increase what we give currently? Please complete the Response form and return in the enclosed envelope even if your response is "I am happy with my current giving".

**Join the Planned Giving Scheme** – set up a standing order or ask for a set of envelopes and so contribute on a regular basis whether we are in church or not.

Let St Matthew's recover tax paid through filling out a **Gift Aid form** (if you haven't already and provided you are a UK tax payer). This will allow recovery of 25p for each £ we give, at no cost to us!

**The Responsibility Is in Our hands:**

To meet our bread and butter costs of everyday expenditure;



To contribute to the costs of repairing and maintaining our building;



To realise our Vision and prepare for the future God has planned for us.



**Please return the form(s) enclosed in this pack by Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April via the box at the back of church.**