



## SUSTAINING OUR CHURCH, SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY



*lifelong giving appeal*

*Dear friends,*

The ongoing sustainability of our Church in Murrayfield is fundamental to realising our vision; namely, "to enable those in our parish and congregation to love the Lord their God and to love their neighbour". For over 115 years, our Church has not only served as a place of worship but it has also been a focal point for the wider community. We are committed to building on that legacy and continuing to provide a high level of service.

Understandably, to do this all costs money.

We now face a material shortfall in our income that jeopardises our core services. We need to address this urgently over and above careful cost management actions already taken in the last two years. Lifelong giving of our members remains at the core of our ability to sustain the Church. We need to increase this to enable us to maintain all services (and to avoid assessing what we can and cannot offer in the future).

More information is set out in the next few pages about: what we do, how much it costs, our giving profile across our congregation, and what you can do to help. If we care about our Church, and want to be a part of it, we have an obligation to play, and pay, our part. The key question to reflect on is "am I making a fair contribution, given my resources and my promise to the Church to devote time, talents and money to its work?"

Thank you for taking the time to read this and consider your approach to giving. And of course a massive thank you to all those who already contribute generously; nothing would be possible without your assistance.

Finally, I think we are often guilty of hiding our light under a bushel when it comes to discussing what we do. As part of addressing this, in the coming months, we are planning a rolling schedule of house visits across our congregation. We want to seek out views on the Church and its place in our community. Your active participation in this exercise is greatly appreciated.

Please do reach out to me or other members of the stewardship group if you have any questions about any of this.

Best wishes from Keith Graham and from the Stewardship Focus Group comprising, Kath Anderson, Catherine Campbell, Keith Dinsmore, Jamie Drysdale, Stuart Geard, Adam Hardie, David McGuffie, David Marwick, Jonathan Platt.

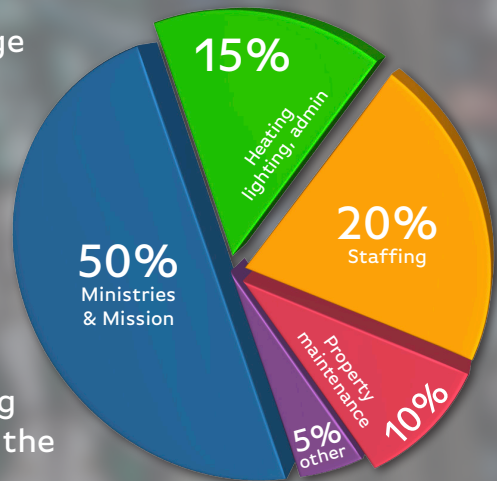


Rev Keith Graham

- The church's vision is to help people love God and love their neighbour.
- There is a Sunday morning service every week of the year.
- Everyone is welcome - there is no requirement to be a member.
- There is provision for all ages on Sundays to help every one learn about Jesus.
- There are activities during the week including: Wednesday Workout and Worship (WWW), the Murrayfield Club (Murrayfield Churches Together's dementia day care project), Tuesday Circle, Toddlers on Thursdays (TOTs), Messy Church and home groups.
- There are partnerships with local charities, schools, other churches, and overseas projects.
- Support is offered to those going through loss or experiencing times of difficulty and stress.
- The minister conducts baptisms, weddings, funerals and other special services.

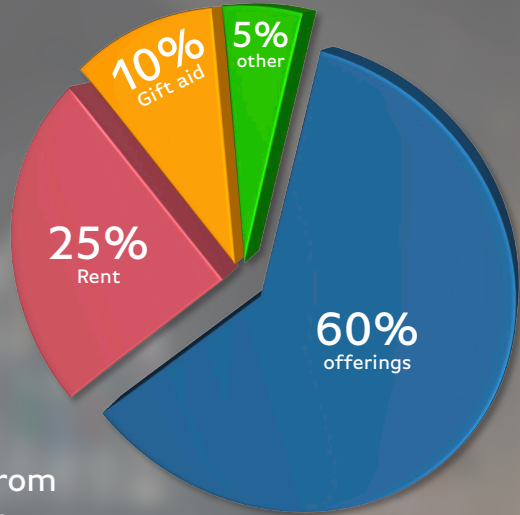
*What goes on*  
**HERE?**

- The church's annual running costs are around £200,000 and have remained stable over the last few years.
- 50% of all Murrayfield Parish Church's costs are to the central Church of Scotland ( we call this Ministries & Mission). A proportion of this is the cost of having a minister but it also enables ministry to continue across Scotland.
- 15% of these costs pays the bills for heating, lighting and administration.
- 20% of these costs is the wage bill for the staff team; Office Manager, Families Worker, Caretaker, Organist.
- 10% of these costs is spent on a maintenance programme for the buildings.
- In recent years church running costs have been greater than the general income.



*What does it cost to run*  
**THE CHURCH AND CENTRE?**

- Church income currently averages £192,000.
- 60% of this income comes from church members.
- 10% of this income comes from the gift aid tax relief payment based on eligible offerings.
- 25% of this income comes from renting out the church centre.
- No payment is received from the Church of Scotland!
- There has been only limited success with grant applications.
- Most of the offerings are received by standing order (a small amount is given on Sunday mornings).
- Only 39% of our church members make regular contributions.
- 15 households provide 40% of our offerings.
- The church occasionally receives legacies (people leaving a donation in their will).



*Where does the money come from to run*  
**THE CHURCH AND CENTRE?**

# How much should I give?

That is a personal matter which only you can answer by reference to what you feel you can afford. Here are some comparative costs which might assist in framing your thinking:

- A coffee each working day is £576 (£48 per month)
- A BLT sandwich from M&S every working day is £672 (£56 per month)
- An annual subscription at Murrayfield Golf Club is £960 (£80 per month)
- An annual membership of David Lloyd gym is £1020 (£85 per month)

You can donate in the following ways:

## 1. Bank Standing Order

This is the preferred method. It is safe, easy and saves administration time for the Church Treasurer. It is also the most efficient way of accessing Gift Aid for all donations made by you. It can also be altered easily should you wish to increase your giving or your circumstances change at any time. If you bank electronically you can set up and vary a standing order online. It only takes a matter of minutes. All the details you need to set up a standing order are attached at the back of this leaflet.

## 2. Weekly Free Will Offering (Blue) Envelopes

If you prefer to give in cash, then this method is available. Free will offering envelopes are available from the Church Office upon request.

## 3. Weekly Offering Plate

This is a method of giving which is becoming less relevant to members due to the increasing popularity of giving regularly by standing order. However, please do not let that stop you when you are in Church and the mood takes you! It is also a means by which we get donations from occasional visitors to the Church. We anticipate introducing an electronic plate shortly which allows for contactless payments to be made.

## 4. Legacies and Bequests

From time to time we have benefited from generous legacies or bequests when

*How Do I Donate?*

**YOUR HELP IS REALLY NEEDED!**

members remember the Church in their wills or make a lifetime gift often for a specific project. It is likely that many of our members do not have wills or have not reassessed their expression of wishes in respect of charitable legacies on death for many years. Addressing this is simple and your solicitor should be able to do this quickly and cost-effectively. Please consider Murrayfield Parish Church when making any expression of wishes in your will in respect of charitable giving.

## 5. Responding to Specific Appeals

We may need to raise money from time to time for specific projects. These projects are often of a capital nature and we would be very grateful if you were able to contribute to those appeals.

## 6. Easyfundraising

You can now raise money for the church when doing your shopping online! A huge number of retailers (including for example Amazon) have signed up to easyfundraising. By following these 3 simple steps you will start donating to the church with no additional cost to you:

- register on the easyfundraising website at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk);
- nominate Murrayfield Parish Church as your preferred charity when you register – we are listed there; and
- access the retailer's website through the easyfundraising website when you want to shop – it's only one additional click!

## Gift Aid

Being a registered charity, we can claim Gift Aid on any donation made by any UK taxpayer paying sufficient income tax. This means that we can claim an additional 25p for every £1 donated. BUT you need to have completed and signed a Gift Aid declaration in order for us to benefit from that. If you are unsure as to whether or not you have signed a Gift Aid declaration, please complete and return the attached Gift Aid declaration.

*giftaid it*

# STANDING ORDER MANDATE

# GIFT AID DECLARATION

## Your Details

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Telephone .....

## Your Bank Details

Bank Name .....

Bank Address .....

Bank Postcode .....

Bank Sort Code   -

Your Account Number

## Your Donation

To: The Manager, please pay to:  
MURRAYFIELD PARISH CHURCH

the sum of: £  each month,

starting on this date:   /      
until further notice.

Payable to:  
Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh Shandwick, Edinburgh EH2 4RN  
Sort Code 80-02-78 Account No. 00818749

Tick here if this instruction replaces any other existing standing orders in favour of Murrayfield Parish Church.

## Declaration

I would like this donation made via Standing Order to Murrayfield Parish Church of Scotland to be treated as Gift Aid. I confirm that I am a UK tax payer and that the amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax I will pay this tax year is at least equal to the amount Murrayfield Parish Church of Scotland can claim on my donation

Please Tick

*giftaid it*

## Notes:

All information in this form will be treated in the strictest confidence.

1. You can cancel this Declaration at any time by notifying the Congregation.
2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Congregation reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give).
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the Congregation reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
5. Please notify the Treasurer if you change your name or address
6. If you require any assistance in completing this form please don't hesitate to contact the Treasurer.

## Your Signature

Signed ..... Date .....

To return this form place it in an envelope marked for The Treasurer and either pop it into the offering place or return to the church office 2b Ormidale Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 6EQ

PLEASE DO NOT SEND THIS FORM TO YOUR BANK

