

Registered Charity No 1158861



ST MATTHEW'S
H A R W E L L

15 March 2025

The financial position at St Matthew's Harwell is concerning and I am writing to you to ask for your help in resolving it.

I am very conscious of the cost-of-living challenges faced by every household at the moment but ask you to think back on how the church might have touched your life in the last year. Alongside the full programme and choices in worship services and home groups (which some churches nearby are not able to maintain as we do) you may have enjoyed the fellowship of the Community Café, the Harwellcome initiative jointly with the Harwellian Club, concerts by local musicians – in short any number of activities which support and enrich lives in our villages as well as in our church families.

Our biggest financial stumbling block is that our forecast income will not match our outgoings in 2025. This has been the case for a number of years. We cannot carry on depleting our reserves to cover shortfalls. We are sufficiently worried that we have decided to halt all but the most essential buildings maintenance work until we can be sure how we can pay for it

I hope that you would feel able to help over the coming year. Would you consider pledging to contribute a chosen sum regularly so that we can predict the income available to us for general purposes? Knowing what is likely to come in is vital if we are to be able to commit to projects. We have an arrangement with the Parish Giving Scheme (www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk) which might interest you as an efficient way of giving but we can also receive it by standing order. If you don't feel able to give regularly we would be very grateful for any one-off donation you could make. There is a 'donate' button at the top right on this page.

Thank you for your contribution to our shared church life. We feel sure that, with your help, we can crack this particularly concerning problem of the church finances in the coming year.

Tim Roberts
Treasurer, St Matthew's Harwell

Contact me at timharoberts@gmail.com or via the Church Office on 01235 834256 if you'd like to know more, see our latest accounts, or for me to put you in touch with our bookkeeper, Nick Clarke, to explore ways of giving.