

Presbytery of Dunfermline
Stewardship & Finance Committee

14 April 2020

Dear Treasurer, Session Clerk and Minister

Re: Congregational giving and finances

You will have received last week an email from Archie McDowall, the deputy treasurer of congregational finance at '121'. This detailed steps that could be taken to mitigate the downturn in congregational finance that most, if not all, congregations in the Church of Scotland will be facing.

Clearly some congregations will be facing more difficulties than others at this time dependant on their level of offering through standing orders as against free-will envelopes and open plate. In addition, many churches use their premises for letting and this income will have ceased and although utility costs will have decreased churches still face the costs of insurance and Mission and Ministries payments amongst other incidental costs at this time.

If your church does not have strong reserves and this 'lock-down' and the inability to meet as church physically continues then you may face dire economic issues.

I would therefore ask that you copy this letter from the Convenor of the Finance Committee and the Moderator of Dunfermline Presbytery to your congregation for information on the position of our churches at this time of economic uncertainty.

It is an appeal that as members of the local church you continue to support your congregation through your offering. I am aware that every individual and family's personal financial situation will vary. For some work and income may not have been affected but for others you may have been furloughed on 80% of your income, and others of you may have lost all your income.

Our call would be that as sisters and brothers in Christ we support both one another and our church through our giving. If you need to reduce your offering because of personal circumstances – then do so without worry or guilt. Likewise, if you can at this time increase your giving then do so with a glad and joyous heart.

The local church needs finances now in order to meet ongoing costs, so if you normally give though open plate or free will offering envelopes, then consider making your offering through a monthly standing order (speak to your treasurer or session clerk for details – they will guide you). If that is not possible and you are saving up your envelopes – consider instead putting a cheque in the post to the treasurer.

Finally, remember if you pay tax and haven't ever completed a Gift Aid declaration form, ask your treasurer and get one filled out and the church can reclaim an additional 25% on your offering - (https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/66063/Gift-Aid-Form-Final.pdf).

We would like to thank you for your continued support of your local church and pray that at this time you know the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ with you and your families, friends and neighbours. Despite the difficulties we face as church, as a nation and world – we can be thankful that God is faithful and good.

May you know His blessing upon you this day

Yours faithfully



Michael Weaver
Convenor – Stewardship & Finance Committee
Email: MWeaver@churchofscotland.org.uk



David Redmayne
Moderator – Dunfermline Presbytery
DRedmayne@churchofscotland.org.uk