



18 November 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Thank you for all your support. Thank you for giving your prayers, time, energy, and your money.

This past couple of years have brought tough times, but thanks be to God, who through you has enabled us, as a Church family, to keep going. Through the pandemic in response to God's love we have been able to:

- Encourage a deepening relationship with God through countless videos, including Sunday and seasonal services, as well as kids and family services and events. Alongside these we have delivered the Paper Service, Parish Magazines and Messy Church and COGS kid's materials. All this and more has blessed our church family and others, strengthening our faith through difficult days.
- Demonstrate the glory and grace of God by, providing assemblies and lessons to schools, resourcing young families, delivering Holiday at Home to homes, hosting community cupboard, and more besides.

And so, thank you again. All of this has been achieved by the mercy and power of God and us all pulling together.

We have not been perfect, and we are so sorry where we have missed opportunities and failed to respond, perhaps even to you as a recipient of this letter – do please get in contact if you find yourself having lost touch.

We are continuing to reopen and relaunch ministries in person and are grateful for all the prayers, service and money being given to enable the worship and mission of the church move forwards.

We are, however, now facing a serious shortage of resources. This is a challenge for many of us personally with changing circumstances, but it also a challenge for us all, as a church family, as our volunteer pool has shrunk, and the total level of regular donations has dipped.

This year we are looking at a deficit of around £14,000. This is less than originally forecast but reflects an unsustainable direction of travel. With a significantly larger deficit predicted across next year, the PCC has now taken the difficult decision to suspend our traditional giving of 10% of our income to our Missions of the Month during 2022, until funding can be found. We will continue to support these missions in prayer and look for ways to raise money for them through events, but this was one of the very few areas where we could cut expenditure.

And even this reduction may not be enough...

We would encourage you to pray to God for the supplying of our church family needs as we seek to serve him, our communities and each other. God has endless resources and entrusts these to us collectively. We give thanks that some have taken on fresh areas of service and that some of our regular donors have already reviewed their level of giving. We must now also ask you to prayerfully review your service and your giving. As we do this, some of us sadly may conclude that we need to reduce our contribution, as we recognise our circumstances have changed. But others of us will find that in truth we are able to give more, in terms of both service and money. This might mean joining a church team, offering a one-off gift or starting or increasing our regular giving. Before God we all need to check his call to us and how we respond generously to his generosity to us and the many needs around us.

If you feel able to respond, in service, or giving, then information can be found online, via our church office, or speak to David Craigen, or any of our staff team.

With thanks and prayers,

Yours Howard, for and on behalf of our PCC.