CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON ST MICHAEL'S PENSBY

Dear friends,

*"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God" 1 John 3: 1.*

In this time of restriction and uncertainty, how good it is to remember the wonderful, unshakeable blessing of God on his people. And it is a good place to start as this week I want to write particularly about our financial situation as a church.

As I mentioned in a previous communication, the lockdown caused by Coronavirus is having a significant effect on our finances. We have experienced a reduction in income of about £2,500 per month as giving in church by plate or envelope has stopped. This is in addition to the loss of £1,000 per month of hall rental income. This reduction in income is in addition to the deficit we had already reckoned on and it leaves us with an anticipated deficit of over £50,000 this year. This is something I needed to bring to your attention.

I would like to make a few comments on this.

1. Quite apart from our current financial position, it is good and right for us to think about our finances and our giving. The Bible teaches repeatedly about the need for the people of God to support gospel ministry in financial ways. It may be that the current crisis makes us feel more uncertain and cautious, but it is also teaching us important lessons about the One we can truly trust - the one who calls us his children. Generous support of gospel ministry is a way to show this trust. Generosity is urged upon us again and again and it is good to be challenged on this, to consider again what we give, and whether our current practice is still appropriate. Some may not have reviewed their giving for quite a while - it is two years since our last significant appeal. However you give, please can I urge you to think again about your regular giving to the work of the church.

2. The fact that we have recently received a large legacy may cloud the issue for some. Surely the church does not now need additional giving from church members? But there is an important difference between a legacy – capital given to extend the work and ministry of the church – and income for week to week running costs. The PCC really does not want to use the legacy for our everyday running costs and the meeting we had in November indicated that the church feels the same. Whether we can keep to this course depends on the ability and willingness of all of us as a church to meet our weekly running costs.

3. There is an issue regarding money usually given on the plate or by envelope. This is not currently being received by the church. It would be a great help for our income and for our ability to plan if those who give on the plate or by envelope could change to give by standing order. It would mean that the church will receive your gift directly and consistently and that you will be able to do what you have decided is right. There is no

need to be concerned about security in this - again do talk to Bob Jarvis if you have any fears in this regard.

To do this, please contact Bob Jarvis (342 2143) for a standing order form. He will also help if you wanted to make a card payment over the phone. Our bank details below will enable you to make a direct payment:

Name: Barnston PCC
Bank: Cafbank
Sortcode: 40.52.40
Account number: 00016049

4. The PCC is aware that we do need to look at week to week expenditure. Furloughing some of our staff has helped in this regard, but we will continue to do all we can to use wisely the money that has been given to the church.

I won't take up more of your time, except to remind you that

**To join in Morning Prayers**
We will meet for Morning Prayers from Tuesday 12th May to Friday15th May, from 9.00 to 9.20.
To join in the link is
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86101732898

**To join in Pray at Home**
We pray from 7.00pm to 7.30pm every Thursday.
To join in on Thursday 14th May the link is
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84679513484

**To join in The Hub**
At the Hub on Thursday 14th May we will be thinking about What are vicars for?
To join in the link is also
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84679513484

May God bless you and strengthen you to face the challenge of these difficult days.

Peter