



Christ Church Parbold

March 2022.

Dear Friends,

We are writing to make you aware of a significant deficit of some £16,000 in our financial situation that needs urgently addressing.

The past 2 years have faced us all with unprecedented challenges from the Coronavirus pandemic and the work and witness of our church has not been immune from these.

Despite the difficulties we have continued with services online and in the open air but the one thing we have missed for much of the time has been meeting together in our church building for public worship. As you will be aware the building was completely closed for several months and then very gradually opened with restricted seating to comply with social distancing rules. Even now our congregation numbers are well below what they were pre-pandemic, partially due to people still shielding or hesitant about meeting in a public space.

A direct consequence of this has been a considerable drop in the weekly offerings from those who put these in the collection plate. (A huge thank-you to those who have continued to make their offerings by Standing Orders).

Our financial outgoings are closely and carefully monitored by the PCC. Building maintenance has been kept to what is essential. The vacant post for a Child and Family worker has been frozen. However there are essential outgoings that must be met – our Parish Share to the Diocese from which our vicar is paid, insurance cover, administration costs, heating bills (as it is necessary to maintain a level of heating to preserve the fabric of the building even when it is closed) to name a few.

At the March PCC meeting the updated budget for 2022 was presented and this shows a projected deficit of some £16,000. If this continues our reserves will be completely wiped out in two years time. We have a meeting arranged with the Diocese to make them aware of this.

In practice, faced with our current financial situation as a church, what does this mean? Please ask God what you can do. Particularly if you are unable to attend services, could you set up a Standing Order? Or put aside your weekly contribution and contact our treasurer Lin Milne (01257 463523) who will arrange to have it collected. Our response is between us and God. And bear in mind what St.Paul says to the Corinthian church. Our giving is "as you are able", "according to your means" "in keeping with your income". Some people will be able give more and some less but together as a church family we can take forward the work of God in this place and beyond. In doing so we are honouring our Great King.

Yours sincerely,

Brian McGucken, Lay Chair, Christ Church Parbold Parochial Church Council.