



September 2021

Dear Church Family,

As a parish we are joining in with the Generous Giving campaign, with churches across the Diocese of Salisbury. We are spending time reflecting on God's generosity and what this means in our own lives as followers of Jesus.

Generosity – with our time and talents as well as our finances – is a hallmark of the Christian faith. We are reflecting on how we can continue to bless those in Corfe Mullen to ensure we are sustainable into the future.

Thank you for your continued generosity in giving your time and gifts and, of course, in supporting the work of our church financially. Over this past eighteen months of the pandemic we have been so grateful for your financial commitment which together with government grants for loss of letting income and furlough support have enabled us to meet our financial commitments during these difficult times. As we look ahead we want to ensure a sustainable future for mission and ministry in this parish.

Our Churches and the St Nicholas Centre.

For the majority of Anglican churches, their income and expenditure is associated with the running of the churches only. However, we have two main 'sources' of income and expenditure. The first source involves the running of our churches – St Nicholas and St Hubert. Most of this income comes from our individual giving and most of the outgoings are from the Parish Share contribution we pay to the diocese (which funds our stipendiary clergy - Jane and Matt - plus the training costs of our Licensed Lay Ministers and much other support we get from the diocese) and the costs associated with our day to day bills. The second source of income - but also additional bills - is from hiring out the St Nicholas church centre to groups during the week. In the past we have been over-reliant on this 'second source' letting income to fund our church running costs. Unfortunately this has meant that there has then been insufficient savings for ongoing maintenance and upgrading of the buildings, particularly given that they are used by many people during the week. We were therefore very fortunate to be able to secure local grant funding to help fund the recent major redecoration projects. However, the pandemic shut-down has also exposed the fragility of relying too heavily on this lettings income. Looking ahead we have been working hard to attract new groups to let our buildings, particularly as we now open back up.

The PCC has also been working towards separating out the income and expenses attributable to the St Nicholas centre (i.e. lettings) and that attributable to the running of our churches. This has

been very helpful because we now have a much clearer picture of the financial health of each of these.

Legacies

Over the past eighteen months we have been incredibly blessed with some very generous legacies. The PCC has decided these should be used primarily to grow the mission and ministry of our churches and to subsidise the bigger one-off but vital maintenance projects. Therefore, we are planning to replace the boilers (which have been condemned) and install a much-needed new heating system. We are also installing bi-folding doors in the lounge at St Nicholas which will open up onto a patio in the garden. We hope this facility will be a blessing to the many groups - church and community - that use our facilities. The PCC are currently exploring how to use remaining legacy funds wisely to further the vision of our churches while also being prudent by investing some for future needs.

Our current financial situation

We have made an estimate – and I emphasise it is an estimate - for the *overall* forecast income and outgoings (i.e. the running of the churches *and* the running of the church centre) up until the end of this year. This indicates we will, very roughly, break even. This is of course good news. However, what this *overall* figure masks is that the St Nicholas centre (i.e. lettings) continues to *substantially* subsidise the running costs of the individual churches by, we estimate, at least £16000 per year.

What this means is that the income we receive from our combined personal giving is not keeping pace with the costs associated with the running of our churches including payment of our Parish Share. Furthermore, next year our Parish Share is likely to significantly increase because in recent years Salisbury diocese has reduced our payment to enable us to get on our feet financially i.e. other churches have effectively subsidised us but it is only right that we should now pay our fair share.

In short, although the income we receive from our combined personal giving is increasing – for which we are genuinely very grateful - we need to grow our giving income further. This is very achievable – in fact *if all of us on our electoral role increased our giving by the cost of one coffee out per week then this would close the gap between our churches' income and outgoings.*

Our Vision

Let me say a few words about our vision. Our vision is summed up in our strap line: *Growing Together: Towards God, Each Other and Community.* We plan to continue to build on the foundations that have been laid over the past few years. Over the last year we have been encouraged by those who have joined us and the many of us who have grown in our relationship with God; this growing in our faith - and living out our faith - will always be a priority. We were immensely encouraged by the Holiday Club week and are committed to growing our children and

families work through the new Wild Church activity, restarting our family service and our weekly mother and toddler group. The appointment of Evie to help us in growing our work with families reflects this commitment.

In addition, many relationships have been built and strengthened during the pandemic and we want to build on this support for one another through our Life groups, opportunities for fellowship after church and through the newly reformed Pastoral Care team. And we want to nurture the closer relationship we have had with our community by restarting a weekly community lunch and Saturday morning café, as well as planning various outreach events and seeking to grow the relationships with our schools.

I hope you share my sense of anticipation in what I believe God is doing among us in enabling us to work out our vision of growing towards Him, each other and our community.

Our Stewardship and response

During September we are looking at the theme of Stewardship during our Sunday morning services. This will culminate with our harvest thanksgiving services on October 3rd when we give thanks for all God's gifts and blessings to us, recognising that all we have comes from Him and we have a responsibility to steward these wisely.

Thank you again, for all you have given and for considering again your ongoing giving to the Lord's work here in the parish of Corfe Mullen.

With love and prayers

Jane

Prayer from the Generous Giving Campaign "God of abundance. We thank you for all the riches you have blessed us with as individuals, families, churches and communities. Forgive us when we strive for more and do not see all that you have already given us. Forgive us when we do not share what you have given us through creation equally. Open our hearts to hear from you at this time. Let your extravagant grace and generosity infiltrate all aspects of our lives in ways we can't yet imagine. In Jesus name. Amen."

How to give to the parish of Corfe Mullen

Corfe Mullen Parochial Church Council (PCC) use the Parish Giving Scheme as a way of ensuring a regular source of income for our church. This is the simplest and most efficient way and therefore the preferred way for us to receive giving as the administration including gift aid is all done centrally for us.

It is very simple: anyone may donate, the only thing that is fixed is the date on which a donor's contribution is collected – it's always the first day of the month. The donor decides the amount they will give, and how often – monthly, quarterly or annually; and may allow the PGS to apply an annual increase to an individual's contribution in line with the rate of inflation – they always contact the donor well in advance of any annual increase to check that the increase is acceptable. If the donor is also able to make a Gift Aid declaration, then PGS will reclaim 25% of any donation from HMRC.

All of the donor's money goes to our church, plus the associated Gift Aid. Usually on the 10th of the month the basic donation gets to our bank, followed a few days later by the reclaimed Gift Aid. We are grateful that most of our regular donors give via this scheme which runs smoothly with very little admin from the parish required. Donors are able to give anonymously if they wish.

We are so grateful to all who give and ensure a regular income to enable the ministry and mission of the parish. PGS have a telephone service on 0333 002 1271, so prospective donors can set up a regular Direct Debit donation to their parish over the phone – no forms to fill in! This has proved very popular.

If you wish to join the scheme you will need to quote our parish code: 340634619 and the call handlers will guide you through the process. To find out more, please visit their website www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk where you can sign up to the scheme online or pick up a form from one of our churches.

Alternatively you may wish to give a one off gift to the parish, directly using BACS:

Account Name : Corfe Mullen PCC

Account Number : 02328483

Sort Code 30-96-73

You can also donate securely online using the "Give a Little" service via a QR code you will find in our churches. However we are charged for each gift given this way so it is best used for occasional 'one off' giving.