

CHRIST CHURCH, DARTFORD

4th February 2021

Dear Christ Church community,

We write to you at the start of 2021, as we live through another lockdown, in the knowledge that this pandemic and the measures to deal with it continue to have financial implications for so many in our community, as they do globally. One of the distressing aspects of living through this time is seeing that the pandemic has served to widen the economic divisions which we know already existed, as well as developing new divisions.

Christ Church is not immune to these difficulties. We receive no external funding from the Church of England or elsewhere and we have therefore seen our income drop significantly over the past year. This is largely due to the fact that we have lost rental income and all cash donations have ceased, whilst our main outgoings of salaries and building costs, along with contributions to the wider diocese, have not lowered in any significant way. We know that many of you already give sacrificially to the church in so many ways – time and skills and financially – and we are so grateful for that blessing.

As the community of God's people here in Dartford, we are called to stand together and to "have everything in common" (Acts 2) and our fellowship and following of Jesus includes our finances and our practical needs.

There are, therefore, two elements of this that we want to highlight:

The first is that we have a community support fund, which is money that we have specifically set aside so that we can stand together with those that are struggling and offer practical support. Knowing that needs are likely to be heightened as we enter 2021 we have in fact adjusted our budget somewhat to bolster this fund. If you are finding yourself in financial difficulty, please do speak to Richard (01322 220036) or Laura (07877 387 194) in confidence and we will do all we can to assist. We do not want any members of our community to struggle alone and we have already been able to assist a number of individuals and families both within our church and in the wider community in the last 10 months.

It is also of note that we now regularly run the CAP Money Course (via zoom currently) and whatever your financial situation this course is invaluable in enabling people to gain control of their finances and to budget to prevent (or indeed escape from) debt and difficulties. One course started on the 20th January, but another is



CHRIST CHURCH, DARTFORD

planned to begin in April and we would encourage you to contact Eburn Faturoti on 07949884410 or email him on capmoneydartford@gmail.com to book on or indeed to just chat through the course and whether it might be useful for you. More details of the course can also be found at www.capuk.org.

Secondly, if in fact you are more financially secure, would you consider prayerfully reviewing your giving to Christ Church and consider whether to start regular giving, if you do not already, or to increase your giving or make a one-off donation to the work of the church if you are able? This will enable us to continue our mission of making Christ known in the community in these difficult times. Details of ways to give can be found at www.christchurchdartford.com/contact-support-us/ or by calling the church office and we will get back to you with details.

We thank you for your contribution to the life and work of the church and we pray for God's blessings on you at these challenging times, that you will feel his love and presence with you and your families in all you do, as we stand together and continue to follow Christ.

Yours in love

Richard
(Rev Dr Richard Mortimer)

