

URGENT PLEA

Like many organisations across the country, the three lockdowns caused by the ongoing pandemic have had an adverse effect on our finances.

By the end of 2020, our yearly church income was down by a whopping £15k. £8.7k of that was lost income from the Church Hall (few bookings), but the remainder - £5,300 - was lost income in people's regular donations. Whilst the building was closed for services, £2,800 was lost from the plate and £1,500 through the envelope scheme, as people weren't bringing them along to church. A further £2,000 was lost in planned giving through standing orders or direct debits.

With the church closed for services, some might think that our costs are significantly less. Sadly this isn't the case. We've only saved about £300 in candles, communion wine and reduced heating. Our main outgoing is our Ministry Share, which covers the cost of the 'stipend' (salary), pension and housing for our minister. It also includes a contribution towards the cost of central diocesan posts, training curates and the cost of ongoing training for all clergy. In 2020, our Ministry Share was £68,552 and has been paid, but we've needed to dip into legacy funds to do so. We quickly need to arrive at a position whereby our outgoings are regularly met by our income.

In order to try and turn things around, **if you are able**, please can I urge the following:

- If you are someone who is with us 'for the season', enjoying our online services but not a 'regular' member, can I encourage you to make a one-off donation to support the work of the church. You can do this online through the church website – www.allsaintscottenham.org.uk
- If you usually give through the plate or the envelope scheme and want to catch up with your giving, could you let Frances Horgan, Treasurer (5 Church Close, Cottenham) have your envelopes (or a cheque) as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can make a donation online – both one-off and regular
- If you are new to the church and haven't considered, or had time yet to organise, regular giving to the church, could I encourage you to join the Parish Giving Scheme to give monthly through your bank. If you email Frances – treasurer@allsaintscottenham.org.uk, she will send you an information pack in the post.

If you are a regular giver who has continued to give during the pandemic, then 'Thank you' so much. The ministry of the church is solely funded by its members.

Scripture reminds us that without God's generosity, we would have nothing. Our response to the amazing ways God has blessed and provided for us should be a desire to give back generously to him.

If you can help at this difficult time, and only if you're able, we would be very grateful.



Rector of All Saints' Cottenham with Rampton.