



The Parish of All Saints, Darfield with St Michaels & All Angels, Gt Houghton
All Saints PCC Darfield is a registered charity (1185316)
Website: www.DarfieldAllSaintsChurch.org.uk

This has come to you from the Treasurer:
Mrs K. Valentine 27, Tempest Avenue, Darfield, Barnsley S73 9BT

News from Darfield All Saints Treasurer

Hello everyone, here is an update on our current financial situation and on the steps that we are taking to keep ourselves financially afloat.

In common with most other churches and charities, our income has seen a sharp reduction since lockdown started in March. This is for a number of reasons as follows.



Without our weekly church services, our income from 'giving' has gone down. However, we are fortunate that we have a good number of our congregation who give regularly each month through the bank by standing order. This giving has continued unaffected. In addition, several of our regular givers who usually use the weekly envelopes have made payments through bank transfers during the lockdown. I also know that many of the other envelope givers are accumulating their weekly envelope amounts ready to hand over whenever it becomes possible. Bearing all this in mind, our income from our 'planned giving' for 2020 will hopefully reduce by no more than about 7% (£2,300)

Our largest reductions in income stem from the halt in hiring out the hall, the inability to hold fund-raising events and the lack of open collections.

On the expenditure side, we are making some savings by not using our church and hall buildings, but these savings are small because we would not be using much gas and electricity anyway at this time of year.

We are therefore heading towards a deficit by the year end. With so much uncertainty still around, it is difficult to estimate (guess) just how big the deficit might be but it could be in the region of £10,000 to £13,600. This is partly offset by the (approx.) £4,000 carried forward from 2019. It is good to see how God provides in advance sometimes, even though we are not aware at the time. We do also have money in our 'reserves', much of which was earmarked for the 'toilet project', so we will not be actually going bankrupt just yet. We have also been informed that we are the recipients of a legacy (amount not yet confirmed) from the late Douglas Mann, who was formerly of Darfield quite a few years ago.

So, what actions are we taking to guard our income? And what can you do to help?

- Anyone who has been stockpiling their weekly envelopes can now pass the backlog to me. You can do this either by putting them through my letter box (27 Tempest Avenue) or by contacting me to arrange for me to collect them (01226 753041). Following this initial backlog collection, I will set up an arrangement to collect them all in on a monthly basis until church services resume.
- Anyone giving by standing order, please continue to do so. Your contributions are really needed and much appreciated.
- Anyone who does not have envelopes or a standing order can now give via **our all-new, super-duper, 'giving button' on the church website**, so long as you have a debit or credit card. The link is also shown on our page on the 'A Church near You' website. However, if you would prefer to give cash or a cheque, please contact me on the above number.
- Anyone who shops online can help by using easyfundraising or Amazon Smile, as explained on our church website. This is where you can give at no cost to yourself. The amounts we get from each transaction are quite small, but with enough people and enough transactions it can add up. A big thank you to those of you already well into using it.
- Our legacy from Douglas Mann is a timely reminder to all of us to think about who we want to benefit from our own wills. I am hoping to soon have a leaflet prepared about legacies, which explains how to go about it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who give so generously to our church's work. We are most definitely in 'uncertain times' - financially as well as in many other ways. Some people are suddenly finding themselves in financial difficulties, while others find that they have accumulated extra cash because they have not been spending as much. I would just remind us all that we should be giving prayerfully.

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have". 2 Cor 8 v 12.

God is quite aware of each of our individual situations, just as He is aware of the hopes and needs of our churches here in Darfield and Houghton.

For Houghton - we currently are not in a position to collect envelopes or bank the money. We hope to arrange something soon and will let you know.

Thank you for reading this - if you have managed to get this far! Don't forget to take a look at our new 'Giving' tab on the church website, which contains the links for the online donations for both Darfield All Saints and Houghton St Michael's. And tell others about it too - you never know who may want to help out our churches financially at this time.