

St Stephen's – a short note about Money

“Why are you writing to me now?”

It may seem strange to be writing to you now about the finances of the Church. After all, every day we hear about life-and-death causes in urgent need of money, and I know that many of you have been generous in supporting those. However, the fact is that, as for many charities, the lockdown is having a profound effect on our Church, and I wanted to write to you briefly so that you are at least aware of this.

“What's the issue?”

Many of you now give to the church by Standing Order, or through the new Parish Giving Scheme, and we are enormously grateful to you for your continued support. However, for those who give through cash or cheque in the Sunday collection plate, the most straightforward opportunity to give has gone. At the same time, money from the use of the Bishop Allenby Hall (which makes a huge contribution normally) has ceased, as has income from events like the Summer Fair, weddings, baptisms, etc.

However, although the closure of the Church building means some costs have reduced, there are other costs to meet (such as insurance) which we still have to pay.

The net result is that the funds we would normally have available to pay towards the cost of ministry at St Stephen's and throughout the Diocese (what we call “Parish Share”) are drastically reduced. We do not hold significant reserves to draw on, and nor does the Diocese: indeed given the current situation, it is quite conceivable that the Diocese's available cash could run out entirely in a few months' time, threatening its ability to pay clergy across the Diocese.

I know that many people are under significant pressure now, and so I am simply wanting to make you aware of the situation: after all, with so many demands on our resources, the temptation will naturally be to assume that any organisation which is not “banging the drum” must be OK. The fact that I have not written before does not mean everything is fine.

“What can I do?”

If you do not currently give by regular Standing Order, the Parish Giving Scheme has just announced that arrangements can be made by telephone: follow this link to the [Parish Giving Scheme website](#) where you can register your interest, and the PGS team will then call you back to set up a donation instruction.

It is always possible to make one-off donations to the Church – bank details at the end of this note, or send a cheque to me at 1 Beech Avenue, Worcester, WR3 8PZ.

Otherwise, please do set aside whatever cash you wish to give to the Church, and bring it along when we are able to meet again for a big celebration!

St Stephen's – a short note about Money

Above all, do continue to keep safe, and please hold St Stephen's and all the Churches in the Diocese in your prayers.

With gratitude,

Andy

On behalf of the PCC of Barbourne St Stephen

BANK DETAILS FOR ST STEPHEN'S

Bank: **CAF BANK**

Sort Code: **40-52-40**

Account: **00021236**

Name: **PCC of the Ecclesiastical of St Stephen Barbourne**