

Dear Friend of St. Luke's,

Thank you for all that you have done and for your generosity of time, talents and money in supporting St Luke's during the last year. 2020 has been a difficult year for everyone and each of us will be able to attest to this in some way – whether that be physical, emotional, spiritual, financial or a mix of all of these!



2020 has been a challenging year for St Luke's because of the coronavirus lockdowns, and we have had to adapt as a church. We haven't always been able to meet face to face, and many activities that the church usually runs have had to temporarily close. However, we have developed online services and live streaming of services, and many of our groups have continued to meet via Zoom rather than in person. Toddlers have met occasionally in the park, Lunches 'staff' have kept in telephone (and sometimes doorstep!) contact with its members, and the Pastoral Team have worked really hard to ensure that contact has been maintained with many – and there are other examples of different ways of working that we will be aware of. It has been wonderful to see our community generously giving so much time and energy to adapt these ministries, and we are looking forward (hopefully!) to being able to return to a more normal way of life later in the year and to recommence these activities in person, being able to better serve the local community once more.

2020 was also a difficult year for the church financially, with giving to the church and income from premises hire both being reduced. Over 80% of our total income comes from the gifts of church members and visitors, with over 10% coming from the hire of our premises. Although some of our expenditure has reduced, many costs continue including, resourcing our own clergy, housing, training and diocesan support, as well as supporting those parishes who are less fortunate than ourselves, staff costs and mission giving (this year we are supporting International Justice Mission, Baby Basics and Transforming Lives for Good). Maintenance (to ensure the church is warm and welcoming to all) and utility costs are also not inconsiderable.

As a church, we are blessed by the many gifts God has given to us. We are invited to respond to that generosity by giving the very best we can offer in whatever form that takes. That giving, carried out as an act of grace, enables us to grow more into the likeness of Christ, as well as resourcing our mission and ministry as we seek to serve our community.

In addition, we are really pleased to be able to take this opportunity to launch the Parish Giving Scheme – a new mechanism for giving which offers an easy and efficient way for us to make regular gifts, and helps us centrally by reducing administration. Planned Giving through this Scheme offers the desirable option to increase our giving by inflation each year, helping to maintain the value of our gifts, and we would be grateful if you could consider transferring your giving to this means. Information about Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) and how to set up your giving is enclosed in this pack.

I hope you will join me in reflecting on God's generosity and how best to respond over the next few weeks. May I encourage you to read through the enclosed information and look at the additional material available on our website www.slclm.org/giving and prayerfully reflect on your own giving to St Luke's, considering what it is right for you to give, and whether you'd be willing to transfer your giving to the Parish Giving Scheme.

Wishing you all the blessings of our generous God,

