

24/VI/20

Dear Friend,

GENEROUS JUNE – *Generous Living, Generous Giving*

Greetings to you, and I hope you are keeping well, at whatever stage of the Lockdown you are.

Those who've been able to join our On-line Services, or read Partners, may well have noticed that we are keeping this month as **Generous June**. It's an opportunity for all of us to reflect on our lives – where we are at the moment, whether God might be calling us to something else, at Church, at home, at work – some new ministry or calling from him. If we're still having to stay at home a lot, it might be a special calling for this time to be still, and to pray for God's world.

We also have the opportunity to reflect on how generous we are in our giving, in all of the different aspects of that – family, charities, Church, etc.

Many people in our congregations have been really generous in their support of the Church in the past, and still are currently, and I'd like to thank all of them.

Some people, especially those who donate through the envelope scheme, or the open plate in Services, may not have had the opportunity to make a donation recently, and, perhaps, might like to.

I want to say a little about our Church finances at present, and to ask whether you might be able (if your circumstances permit) to make a donation to support the ministry and mission of the Churches of our four Avon Valley Parishes – either regularly, or one-off.

Breamore: Last year, our monthly income was around £2,500; at present, it is £1,200, a shortfall from fees, donations, open plate, wall safe, etc., of around £1,300 a month. We have had to reduce our Common Mission Fund payments (which support stipends of the Parish Clergy), and were already planning to take up to £5,000 from our small pot of unrestricted reserves to meet our commitments this year. (PGS No. 416009041, Bank Acc. 30-97-08 01237319)

Fordingbridge: In the 3 months, March to May, Covid has cost around £3000 in donations-based Income, with a further £750 in Gift Aid. We are also missing around £3000 from other sources such as hall hire, magazine advertising, wall safe and fees. In total, we are at least £2000 per month below what was expected. There have been some savings in administration and utility costs, but nothing significant. The furlough relief has also defrayed a large part of salaries of our Directors of Music. Although we are fortunate to have reserves, the Lillington Legacy is planned to be used for the restoration of the Church and the renovation of the Hall – at the moment we are using the legacy to fund day-to-day bills and commitments, including Common Mission Fund. (PGS No. 416009141, Bank Acc. 54-30-45 13996401)

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Hale & Woodgreen: Our current monthly income is around £600, which is about £500 less than we would normally expect. We have reduced our Common Mission Fund monthly amount, and have very little by way of unrestricted reserves. (PGS No. 416009161, Bank Acc. 54-30-45 07826443)

Hyde: We anticipate a shortfall on giving of £2,500, for events (plant sale, etc.) of £2,500, and Church Centre lettings of £2,500, which = £7,500 approximately. Any savings in expenditure due to the lockdown (e.g. electricity) are offset by an increase in office costs this year compared to 2019. We have had to use our limited reserves to pay the Common Mission Fund up to May, but now are having to reduce our payment to last year's rate. (PGS No. 416009123, Bank Acc. 30-97-08 01237645)

You can see in how difficult a financial situation all of our Parishes are.

Some people are in their own very difficult financial situations, and are not in the least expected to increase their giving (quite the contrary – they may need to reduce) But many are not, and might be able to make a one-off gift or to increase their regular donation; and there are those who are not giving regularly at present, and might like to know how they can. All of us can think and pray about how we use our finances for the good of all.

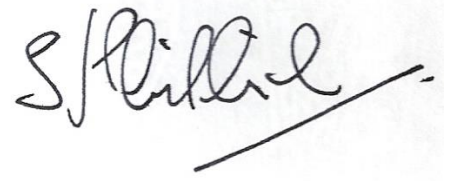
How to Give?

- The Parish Giving Scheme is by far the most efficient way to make a donation. Donations are taken by direct debit (like many people's electricity bills), and can be cancelled at any time. If you pay tax, the Gift Aid is reclaimed automatically, and returned to us each month. If you'd like to start giving this way, contact any of the Churchwardens, Clergy or Church Office, and we can supply a form. Or phone **0333 002 1271** to set up your donation – the PGS reference for each Parish is printed overleaf. More details at 'parishgivingscheme.org.uk' for those who would like.
- For one-off or regular gifts, our own website (details at the top of p.1) has a 'Donate' button – simply click that, and enter your bank details. There is also a 'Donate' button on our Facebook page (We could only set these up for one account, so all monies are shared between the Parishes by the percentages we have already agreed for Benefice costs – unless people let us know the donation is for a particular Parish).
- If anyone would like to make a transfer directly to our Parish bank accounts, the details are above.
- And cheques can be sent to the Church Office (address overleaf).

Thank you for reading this far. If there are ways in which we can support you, by prayer, phone calls, or practically, please be in touch. My phone number is overleaf.

And we pray regularly for the Parishes of the Avon Valley Churches – as I hope you do. Our Churches are now open for prayer and visiting (Breamore, Fordingbridge, Hale & Woodgreen – Hyde will open after the works there have finished, and Godshill at some point in the future), and we are now looking forward to the time when Services will be able to re-start. How wonderful, though, that we've been able to keep in touch by so many means, including the internet.

With Best Wishes and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Philbrick", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Canon Gary Philbrick
Rector of the Avon Valley Churches