



Giving for Life

3rd May 2023

Dear friend,

Thank you so much for your generosity as you give both in time and resources to making Jesus known in Dedworth, the surrounding areas and various communities you serve. While each of us today is challenged— both in managing our time and finances—we're so thankful to God for his provision. I'm also giving thanks to God for you, and for the opportunities the Lord has given us to make Jesus known and grow in faith together.

This year we have another opportunity to share the hope we have in Jesus with others, through our Giving for Life campaign. We know the Lord will bless us, as we step out in faith and so I ask that over the next couple of weeks, you please read the enclosed information in this pack and prayerfully reflect on your giving towards God's mission through All Saints'. On Sunday 21st May, we will have a Giving for Life gathering, where we'll have an opportunity to hand our response forms back. (Of course, you can hand your Response Form back before if you'd like too!) Members of the PCC have already committed to do this so they can lead by example.

While we are thankful for the generosity of so many, All Saints' is currently facing a deficit budget of some c.£17,000 this year. Reasons include an increase in the parish share and energy costs, continued mission outreach, as well as our discerning God's call to welcome a Curate to Dedworth.

There is so much more we'd like to do than just pay the bills! With a thriving and growing Church, we'd love to employ a Children's and Families worker to help support the development of the youth, children's' and schools' ministries. We'd also like to transform our 50-year-old building into an eco-efficient, newly resourced Church Centre, fit for the next 50 years! The PCC is also seeking to move further towards a commitment of giving 10% of its income to mission and outreach supporting both local, UK and world-wide causes that make Jesus known, demonstrating further our trust in the Lord to provide.

When he was in prison, Paul wrote to his friends in Philippi:

I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:18–1 NIV

These two verses give us such hope! Paul was telling his friends that, in giving sacrificially, they could be reassured that God would *make sure* his people would have *everything* they needed. As they stepped out in faith, they would be looked after. God will be with us and he will take care of our material needs, as well as our spiritual ones! The Philippians approach was refreshing in that, by giving sacrificially, they refused to let their wealth control *them*, instead acting to—in faith—control *it*!

Once again, thank you so much for your continued support and mostly for who you are! It is such a privilege to serve Jesus alongside you. If you would like to discuss this or anything else with me, please do get in touch.

With love and every blessing,