



St John the Evangelist

The Church of St John the Evangelist,
St John's Road,
Newbury,
Berks.
RG14 7PY

25 April 2020

Dear friends,

St John's Financial Position and Your Support during Covid-19

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.
Romans 12:13

We are writing to you today as Treasurer and Churchwardens of St John's to inform you about our current financial situation and how you can help to support your church and community during this time of need.

Due to the closure of both the church and parish room, St John's has seen a **reduction in income of £1,900 per month** with the loss of plate collections, fees for weddings and baptisms, and room hire bookings. At the same time, our monthly expenditure remains almost the same, as we need to continue to pay our Parish Share (to pay for our clergy), insurance bills, accountancy fees, and utility bills. This means, during the Covid-19 situation, we are running at a **deficit of £2,000 per month**. It is important that St John's continues to receive a steady income during the Covid-19 period, so it can survive and thrive as we seek to do the work of saints and continue the mission of the apostles, delivering the message of Christ and supporting the community in our own traditional and unique way for the people of Newbury. Indeed, even now we are still continuing, and expanding, our good work to deliver our religious and pastoral responsibilities to our congregation and community, via online-services, telephone calls, pastoral care, community gathering, networking with outside agencies, innovative responses, and benefice co-ordination. This will only be possible through your continued, generous giving.

We are thus writing to encourage and explain how you can continue your giving to St John's at this time whilst some of the usual donation routes you may use are unavailable. This would be preferable to saving up all your good-will until the current situation abates, as we do not know when this will be. There are three main ways you can give:

1. Standing Order

You can speak to your bank, either in branch, online or via telephone, to arrange to set up a standing order – a monthly direct transfer from your account to St John's. The bank details for St John's to pay into are:

Name: PCC St Johns Church Newbury

Bank: Lloyds

Sort code: 30-95-89

Account number: 57792668

Please let the Treasurer know if you do this – her contact details are at the bottom of this letter.

2. Via the Good Exchange – Online or BACS

We have now set up a Project on the Good Exchange for our Essential Running Costs for 2020, where the Greenham Common Trust will give us £1 for every £1 we raise, up to £5,000. There are

two ways you can currently give to St John's via this project and so double your gift. This could replace your usual Sunday service collection plate donations or yellow stewardship envelopes.

a. Online

Visit our project (ref 18017) at <https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/18017/st-johns-church-newbury/st-johns-newbury-community-and-church-essential-running-costs-2020> and click 'Donate now'. Pay using a debit or credit card, specifying 'Gift Aid' and 'Pay fundraising fee' as appropriate.

b. BACS

Make a BACS transfer from your bank account to the Good Exchange, quoting reference 18017, and complete and submit the attached/enclosed form to the Good Exchange. The Good Exchange bank details are:

Name: The Good Exchange Ltd

Sort code: 20-71-29

Account number: 20400807

And their postal address for the completed form is: The Good Exchange Ltd, Liberty House, Greenham Business Park, Thatcham, Berkshire RG19 6HS.

NB, the Good Exchange are not currently accepting cheques.

3. Cheque to St John's

You can write a cheque payable to 'PCC St Johns Church Newbury' and send it to David Oats at 40 Groveland Road, Speen, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 1SS.

Hopefully all of this makes sense and one of these methods is possible for you. Of course, we realise not everyone may be in a position to give, so if you cannot, we understand – please keep St John's and our church family in your prayers. Heartfelt and grateful thanks to the many of you who have already continued, and in some cases increased, your giving to St John's during these times – it really is essential to the survival of St John's and its vital mission.

If you have any questions or need any help, please do not hesitate to get in touch – our contact details are at the bottom of this letter.

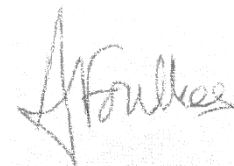
With blessings and prayers for you and your loved ones, for our church and church family, and for our community and country,



Kimberley Whittaker
Hon. Treasurer



David Oats
Churchwarden



Alison Foulkes
Churchwarden

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