



St Barbara's Church, Earlsdon

24 Rochester Road
Earlsdon
Coventry
CV5 6AG

September, 2021

Dear all,

The last eighteen months have been a hugely challenging time for everyone, and as a PCC we want to thank you once again for your incredible support of the church during this time, especially through your prayers, your pastoral support of one another and your contribution to and participation in our many services.

We would also like to thank you for the financial support you have given to the church. As you may well be aware, the Covid pandemic significantly affected the church's income. The hall was shut for many months, affecting the income we receive from hiring out the hall to many groups, and even now we haven't seen all those groups return. With the church closed for many months, and with limited numbers returning since we have been able to re-open, our cash and envelope giving has been significantly reduced too. In total, over the last 18 months, our income has fallen by £28,000 (30% of our total income).

This is a significant loss of income and we are aware of the need to rebuild our finances. Through careful stewardship and generous giving we have been able to manage this short-fall in the short-term, but we recognise that going forward there is a need to improve our financial position, so that we are covering our day-to-day expenditure from our day-to-day income once again. For a simple break-down of our income and expenditure please click on [this link](#).

As a PCC we would like to give you the opportunity to reflect upon and review your financial giving to the church. We have not asked you to do this for three years, and if you are newer to the church, this may be the first time we have asked you to think about giving. In those three years, if you have not increased your giving, your giving will have decreased in value in real terms due to inflation. As you reflect on your giving, we hope that many of you may be able to increase what you give. That will greatly help our church finances going forwards. We also recognise that for others of you, these last few months have not been easy financially, and it may be appropriate for you to reduce your giving. Can we encourage you to take some time over the next couple of weeks to prayerfully consider your giving to the church and act upon your decisions?

We appreciate that if you give by envelope or cash, you may have found it particularly difficult to give to the church in the past year. Can we encourage you to consider making a one-off gift to make up for some of the giving you were unable to give? You may also want to consider giving by standing order from now on, as a simpler and more reliable way of giving. We have included below guidance on how to set up a Standing Order to the church.

Below you will also find a table that we know many of you have found helpful in the past which helps you to calculate your giving as a percentage of your income. The Church of England suggests a good rule of thumb is to consider giving 10% of one's income away, with 5% of that going to the local church. However, we recognize that every person's circumstances are different, and it may be appropriate for you to give significantly more or less than this.

We are sending this letter to you as an email. We are aware that for some of you that may feel less personal, but we are trying our best to be wise stewards of what God has entrusted us with, and email is significantly cheaper and also more environmentally friendly than a paper version.

Can we thank you again for the many ways in which you give to the church, and may God guide us all as we prayerfully reflect on our financial giving.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the PCC,

Rachael Moorley (Church Warden)
 Mark Owen (Treasurer)
 Tulo Raistrick (Vicar)
 Keith Wright (Church Warden)

Setting Up a Standing Order

Setting up a standing order is a straightforward process, and it can also be cancelled at any time, so you do not need to worry that you are tying yourself into a commitment you may not be able to keep in the future. To set up a standing order on-line you will need the following information:

Sort Code: 60-07-40

Account No: 32422342

Payee: St Barbara's Church PCC

Reference: please give your surname & first name if space

If you don't bank on-line, please contact our treasurer Mark Owen (markaowen1962@gmail.com; 07771834995) or our Stewardship Officer, Christine O'Brien (cob27@mac.com; 02476675583) for a standing order form, or if you have any questions.

Giving as a Percentage of Net Income

Giving Per Week

| | | Percent of Net Income | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | 1% | 2% | 3% | 4% | 5% | 10% |
| Net | £150 | £1.50 | £3.00 | £4.50 | £6.00 | £7.50 | £15.00 |
| Income | £250 | £2.50 | £5.00 | £7.50 | £10.00 | £12.50 | £25.00 |
| Per | £500 | £5.00 | £10.00 | £15.00 | £20.00 | £25.00 | £50.00 |
| Week | £750 | £7.50 | £15.00 | £22.50 | £30.00 | £37.50 | £75.00 |

Giving Per Month

| | | Percent of Net Income | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| | | 1% | 2% | 3% | 4% | 5% | 10% |
| Net | £500 | £5 | £10 | £15 | £20 | £25 | £50 |
| Income | £1,000 | £10 | £20 | £30 | £40 | £50 | £100 |
| Per | £2,000 | £20 | £40 | £60 | £80 | £100 | £200 |
| Month | £3,000 | £30 | £60 | £90 | £120 | £150 | £300 |