Dear

**Funding Hope in Uncertain Times – Reaching the Community with News of God’s Love**

In a sketch written many decades ago, Peter Sellers, as a pompous politician, said, “With your uncertainty, and my uncertainty, there’s certainly a lot of uncertainty about. Of that we can be quite…sure”. Despite being written so long ago, it seems to ring true today.

We’ve had to deal with Covid 19, its variants and lockdowns. We’ve had the country at odds with itself over Brexit, division over how we deal with migrants crossing the English Channel, the high cost of energy, protests and strikes. More widely in the world, Russia has invaded the Ukraine, pushing up prices everywhere, there has been political unrest in France, China and North Korea seem more bellicose.

Yes, there’s certainly a lot of uncertainty about. Yet we as Christians have an antidote: Hope. We have hope in the love and mercy of God our Father, the example and redeeming work of Jesus Christ, and the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit to strengthen and renew us.

In Genesis 17 God promises Abraham and his offspring that He will be their God, and they will be His people, a promise echoed in Exodus 6, Ezekiel 34 and 36 and Jeremiah 7, 30 andS 31. In Hebrews 13 we are told that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. In Matthew 28 Jesus promises His followers, “You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of time”.

Scripture clearly wants us to know that God’s love for us and presence with us is certain and forever. This is the message that, as partners in the Gospel, we at [CHURCH NAME] share with our community, those amongst whom we live and work.

I am thankful for your strong and faithful support by being included on our Electoral Roll and worshipping with us. You are among the people who have helped this congregation make a real difference in the lives of people in the [NAME] community and beyond.

I am grateful for the great generosity in what you have given already in terms of time, talent and financial support. All gifts given are gratefully received but given that costs continually rise, and that this vital expression of God’s mission to the community around us is needed just as much as ever, I would like to take this opportunity to ask you whether it is possible for you to consider an increase in your giving. I enclose a copy of our annual report to remind you of the good work that we do and inform you of the costs involved and their impact on our finances.

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I also enclose a response form so that you can let our Treasurer [NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS] know of any increase you are able to make. If you are not currently a regular giver but would like to become one, the response form also includes a standing order mandate which you can complete. If you are a UK taxpayer, please would you be sure to complete the Gift Aid declaration? This boosts your generous donation by 20% from the Government at no extra cost to you. Perhaps you could also consider leaving a legacy gift to CHURCH NAME

Finally, I wish to repeat that *all* gifts given to [NAME] are gratefully received regardless of the amount or regularity of your payment. Your support means God work is done, right here in our community.

Of that, we can be absolutely certain!

With thanks and best wishes,

[SIGNATURE]