xxx CHURCH

Parish Address

*t: xxxxxx
e: xxxxxx*

*church web address*

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Dear

*“We love God because God first loved us” 1 John 4:19*

From Sunday 8th September – Sunday 15th September, we will be taking part in *Generosity Week*. As we spend a week focused on giving, I want to recognize that many of us are currently experiencing significant levels of uncertainty in our finances. COVID, energy prices and inflation are affecting us all.

The finances of our Parish Church are similarly very uncertain. COVID has had a huge impact, as lockdowns and social distancing meant we lost income from room hire, fundraisers and weekly collections. Moreover, the cost-of-living crisis has meant the church is seeing many of its costs increase substantially, including perhaps most concerningly our energy prices [amend as appropriate].

*Generosity Week* invites us to do more than simply think about church finances. It is a chance to reflect on all God has given us: love beyond measure; His Spirit; our beautiful creation; the gift of life each day and, of course, Jesus Christ. To focus on generosity is to focus on the very nature of our God and all He has given to us.

*Generosity Week* is also an invitation into a new way of living. A way that recognizes that “we love God, because God first loved us” (1 John 4:19). At its heart, generosity has nothing to do with budgets, deficits or even Ministry Offer! It is an outworking of love. God loved first and God gave first and we strive to live in a way that joyfully reflects that to all around us. My prayer for xxx Parish is that this culture of generosity and gratitude will grow in every aspect of our lives: from our hospitality to friends and family, to how we treat those in need in our community, to our giving to the life of the church.

So, what will *Generosity Week* involve? [amend list as appropriate]

* We will spend two Sundays looking at the themes of generosity and gratitude.
* 8 morning prayer services will focus on different aspects of God’s generosity
* We will run two mid-week small group sessions
* 8 podcasts will be made available for you to listen to
* We will provide a leaflet to help you review your giving

We are also using the opportunity of *Generosity Week* to invite you to review your giving to xxxx Parish. The enclosed annual review leaflet sets out our parish financial situation in more detail.

As we ask you to prayerfully consider financially supporting NAME OF CHURCH, it seems right that we outline what we believe God is calling us to do and be over the next couple of years

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You will see in the accompanying annual review, we are currently operating with an £xxx annual deficit.

During these challenging times, it can feel even more difficult to ask members to review their giving. However, it is important that [church name] acts now to ensure the sustainability of our mission and ministry in the years ahead. For some of you, it may be impossible to increase your giving or start giving at this time. It’s possible that there will also be those of you who have to reduce your giving because of your personal financial circumstances. However, I am confident that as you read this, others will feel able to increase the amount you give to the church or start giving for the first time.

Finally, I ask you also to consider the way you give to our church, for example, could you set up a standing order or even think about leaving a legacy gift to [parish name]?

To respond, please either put your response form in the box which will be at the back of the parish church or send it to: [treasure name] by date.

Please be assured we are grateful for all gifts, large and small, whether you increase your giving, reduce your giving, or start giving for the first time! In these times of real uncertainty, we rest ever more strongly on our faith in God - our Rock and our anchor.

As you prayerfully consider this letter and accompanying leaflet, I go back to where I started: generosity is about more than church finances. Our giving is an outworking of our love for God, our church and our community. Let us give out of a recognition of all God has blessed us with, and through a desire to bless others. Do take time to think, pray and reflect on these themes of generosity and gratitude and may this time prove a great encouragement to us all.

On behalf of the PCC, I would like to thank you for your support and prayers.

Yours in Christ

Revd. xxxx