



arden marches

*Bringing God's love to a hurting world.*

Dear friends

June 2020

### **Parish Giving Scheme and personal giving review**

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank God for all your support to our churches, including your financial giving, it is so appreciated. Thank you.

I am writing on behalf of the PCC (our church council) to invite you to join the new Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). This scheme is available across the Church of England to help people give regularly to their parish churches. It allows you to give a nominated amount regularly via Direct Debit (very securely), and for any Gift Aid to be returned to your church monthly. If you wish, the amount can be increased annually in line with inflation. Here is a link to a sheet with more explanation and with directions about how to join <https://www.ardenmarches.co.uk/news/2020/06/instructions-for-joining-our-parish-giving-scheme/>

Studley and Mappleborough Green PCC members have trialled the PGS. We have found it very straightforward, and commend it to the wider congregations. It simplifies our financial administration and planning, and it allows you to effortlessly increase your giving each year in line with the cost of living if you so choose. Joining is very simple – via a telephone call.

If you give by Standing Order, we encourage you to transfer to PGS. If you give via envelope or the collection plate, we encourage you join the PGS, especially since we will be unable to make collection plate donations regularly for some time yet. (If you are a PCC member and already give via the PGS – Thank You!)

We invite you to take this opportunity to also prayerfully review the amount you give to Studley or Mappleborough Green church. Dan spoke about financial giving at our Zoom service on 7<sup>th</sup> June, and has produced a very helpful booklet to help you think it through further: <https://www.ardenmarches.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Our-money-Gods-money.pdf>

Our Zoom service on **28<sup>th</sup> June** will be a **Thanksgiving Service** with an opportunity to pledge our financial support to the mission and ministry of our churches. Some people's finances have been severely damaged by the pandemic, and it may be right for you to reduce what you give at this time.

To help your prayer and consideration, here is a little information about our church finances:

- We are thankful to the Lord (and to you) that both Studley and Mappleborough church finances broke even last year. The 2019 Annual Accounts are now available on our website for more detailed information. This year we forecast a significant deficit because of the coronavirus pandemic.
- It costs roughly **£1,000 a week** to run Studley Church and **£700 a week** to run Mappleborough Church. We receive no funds from the government nor the Church of England. Our running costs are met entirely by your contributions - plus fees income from weddings and funerals (and for Mappleborough some investments income). So we all have a part to play - in paying the bills and funding our ministry and mission opportunities - so that we can sustain and grow our much-valued ministry and outreach to our communities as we emerge from this pandemic.

Thank you for reading this,

The Lord bless you and keep you,

Kate Mier

*On behalf of the PCC of Studley and Mappleborough Green*

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