Amongst the headlines that have hit us at this very difficult time is that the Church of England has had to close its churches. This is very far from the truth. Our church buildings may be closed, but our churches are very much still open as loving communities of faith seeking to care for each other and their communities and find new and sometimes old, ways of doing this.

Here at …. we are *…. (fill in with what you are doing locally to stay in touch with and support people and to invite people into whatever support systems you have if they are not already part of them eg email contacts, telephone rota, worship options)*

For many, the events of recent weeks have been deeply shocking and disorientating. As things settle we are becoming aware of the reality of what lies ahead. If you are facing financial worries, please let us know so we can help you find the right support.

Some of us will have realised that we are in the fortunate group of people for whom financial life is at least fairly stable. Pensions continue even where affected by investments, for many employment is continuing or income is being preserved at 80%. We might even be experiencing a reduction in our outgoings as many leisure activities and events are being curtailed.

If you are able to support your church by continuing your regular giving, we hope that you will find a way of doing this. Some suggested ways are offered below. Why are we asking at this moment? More than ever we need to be an active church to minister to our community and we are seriously worried about our income at this time.

The income received by the church is used to pay for the insurance and care of the building and to pay for the clergy who minister not only to the church community but to all the people of the parish. Even though we don’t currently have a vicar here, we will still receive clergy, archdeacon and diocesan support to ensure funerals take place and other ministry happens. Unfortunately, much of our most significant expenditure continues unchanged as working clergy still need to be paid and the building needs insuring and maintaining.

If you are struggling financially, please do not feel you need to maintain your giving. It is important that you feel free to reduce your giving until times improve for you. This does mean, though that we are asking those less affected to be as generous as you can. Please commit to maintaining your giving, even increasing it if you feel able, to enable us to continue to serve our community effectively.

What are we asking you to do?

Please pray about your giving at this time and then work out the best way of making your gift. Ideally we hope that you will be able to make your gift directly using online banking or by setting up a standing order with your bank. If you are not able to do this, you might be able to text your donation, give through our website or by sending a regular cheque. All of the details for these different options are given below.

Please contact ……..

Our financial generosity to the church is a key part of our Christian commitment. Many people are re-examining their priorities in life at this moment. If you believe that the church is an important witness to the love of God in these difficult times, please be as generous, and no more generous, than you feel able.

Thank you for all you are and will do to continue to support our church. Together we can continue to love and care for all who live in our parish.