

Financial Position

Covid -19 is impacting on almost every aspect of our lives, including Church finance. We are currently working through the possible implications for this year's budget and it is already clear that there will be a considerable gap in our finances due to the loss of hall hire income and cessation of Sunday plate collections.

We have been asked by the Diocese to let them know if our financial position will affect our ability to pay the parish share, which unfortunately it will. However, we cannot simply pass our problem back to the Diocese, which is also under considerable financial pressure. As far as we can we must reduce the financial impact ourselves and to this end we expect to announce a series of finance initiatives over the next few weeks.

So at this point could we ask

- those of you who give via envelopes, cash or cheques to consider switching to standing orders. This will help us with our cash flow and enable us to pay as much of the parish share as possible
- you to consider whether you could increase your level of giving.

If you are able to give more or wish to switch to standing order please email Dave Chambers at simplydavec@aol.com and he will answer any of your questions, give you a form etc. If you do not use e-mail and wish to respond to this appeal please ring Richard on 07776 208546.

Above all please pray for our financial situation and let us know of any ideas that might help.

Many thanks from the Finance Committee.

Holy Week

Hopefully everybody has received a copy of the Holy Week meditations (either by email or by post) - these will also be available on our website (Worship at Home page) from Sunday evening.

Each morning at 9.15am during Holy Week there will be a live streamed meditation using these resources on Facebook, which will also be available on our website.

Maundy Thursday - Revd Gemma will lead an evening service, look on the website and Facebook for details.

Easter Sunday - Revd Gemma will lead our 10am service, which will be available on Facebook and our website.

Prayer for those affected by Coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
Under the shadow of your mercy.
sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
That we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate
us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Newsletter Content

If you have any items for the Newsletter (including requests for prayer) please contact Janette Tadman 01245 469124

Email janettetadman@gmail.com

Deadline Wednesday evening

Contacts

Vicar Revd Gemma Fraser 07540 152561

Churchwardens

Richard Field Lucy Bubb
07776 208546 07970 728673

Deputy Churchwardens

Mike Tadman Sue Davies
07740 625454 07708 296804

Sunday 5th April

Palm Sunday

8am Holy Communion

10am: Service of the Word with Revd Gemma

Both services are being recorded rather than live streamed.

Orders of service and readings are on the Worship at Home page on the St Luke's website.

<http://www.stlukemoulsham.co.uk/worship-at-home/>

10.45am: Virtual Coffee using Zoom technology (online and telephone)

The church building is closed

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his
patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his
resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a
servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our
salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

TO OUR VISITORS Welcome to our service. The **hymn numbers** are displayed on the boards, and will also be announced. When we come to receive Holy Communion, please see the notes in our **Order of Service**, which are provided for your guidance. We like to mark **birthdays** by singing "Happy Birthday to you: to Jesus be true. May God's richest blessing rest today upon you." If it is your birthday this week, please tell one of the ministers.

The ministry of Prayer with Laying-on-of-Hands for Healing is available every Sunday. If you would like this for yourself or another, please speak to one of the Ministers or Churchwardens.

READINGS: The readings for this Sunday are printed on a separate sheet

BabyBasics – Lent Giving 2020

This Lent, we are supporting Baby Basics Chelmsford as part of our vision and aims to LOVE, GROW, and SERVE our Community. The other week we were delighted to be joined by Joelle Mortimer who, together with her husband and middle daughter, started Baby Basics Chelmsford.

Given the pressures on many of the items that are needed for the Moses Basket Starter Packs, we recently took the items donated so far to Joelle and her team – they were hugely grateful! If you are able to donate additional items, our basket is in church; however it may be easier to make monetary donations instead and there are envelopes in church. Please make cheques payable to St Luke’s and mark “Baby Basics” on the back of the cheque. If you are a tax payer, please consider gift aiding your donation.

Please remember to pray for the project and the small Baby Basics team of helpers, especially at this very difficult time.

What’s in a Baby Basics Moses basket starter pack?

NEW:		SECONDHAND:
Breast pads *	Newborn nappies	Moses Basket
Maternity pads *	Baby Wipes	Newborn clothing inc. knitted items
Chocolate treats for mum	Cotton Wool	Bedding for baby
Shampoo (Mum / Baby) *	Baby Mattress	Towels for baby
Toothbrush / toothpaste *	Hand soap *	

Project 2020 Update

Over the last few years at St Luke’s we have been developing a renewed sense of purpose, leading to an exciting period of development. We recently launched Project 2020 which comprises two stages each containing a number of projects. The first stage, which focuses on external changes to our building and grounds, comprises five projects

- Installation of a new entrance landing and moving steps forward (in effect creating a ramp to the main Church doors)
- Repair to the car park retaining wall
- Replacement of external lobby doors
- New logo writing on the Church front wall
- New notice board (replacing two existing boards)

These projects have successfully gone through the first stage of the process for gaining Diocesan approval and the plans are available for public view.

If you are out taking exercise and want to see what we plan to do, copies of the plans are on display in the windows of the large hall by the car park. All the plans together with a copy of the application to the Diocesan Advisory Committee is available on a new page of our website <http://www.stlukemoulsham.co.uk/project-2020/>

Should you wish to object to these plans your objection needs to be lodged by 18th April 2020. Details of the process are available on one of our existing notice boards and on our website.

Please Pray This Week

For Brian, Joan, Bob, Margaret, Tammy, Emma, Greta, Carmen, Revd John , Nicky Melvyn, Alina, Doug Margaret .

For people to step forward as Churchwardens and PCC members at the APCM

For those named on the prayer board

Cherry Tree

If you’ve been out on your daily exercise then you might have noticed something different outside church the cherry tree on the corner of Lewis Drive was chopped down on Friday as branches had started to fall off and it was considered a health and safety issue. A big thank you to Adam Vaughan Landscapes for helping us out.

APCM 2020

We were due to hold our Annual Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 19 April; this will not now be taking place on this date and the Diocese has confirmed an extension to the end of October 2020 for these meetings to take place. Please do continue to pray about whether God is calling you to join the new PCC or to be Churchwarden

Current Arrangements regarding Coronavirus

Our church building is now closed. This does not stop us worshipping and praying – we just need to do things differently!

There is a “worship at home” pack – hard copies are available in church, and can also be found on our website: www.stlukemoulsham.co.uk/worship-at-home. This provides prayers for you to use as well as the readings and collects for the coming weeks.

We are also live streaming services of Morning Prayer (9.15am Monday to Friday) and 8am Holy Communion and 10am Service of the Word on Sundays. These are available on our Facebook page (@stlukesmoulshamlodge) as well as our website together with the Orders of Service (see link above), so you can join in at any time. Please do keep checking for information and if you need help to access Facebook on your computer or device just contact any member of Standing Committee (Helen, Hilary F, Lucy, Mike, Richard, Sue).

We are looking at opportunities for virtual bible study together and night prayer/compline so please let us know if you would be interested in joining and also if you have any other ideas. If you have any prayer requests, please email: moulshamprayers@gmail.com and these will be shared with the prayer groups across St John’s and St Luke’s.

Moulsham Support Service

Volunteers from St Luke’s, St John’s, Tile Kiln Church, and MLCT have joined together to provide assistance with shopping, collection of essential medication, spiritual/emotional support and signposting to services. If you or anyone you know in Moulsham, Moulsham Lodge or Tile Kiln needs support and can’t get help from family or neighbours, please contact: 07517 715313 or email moulshamchurches@gmail.com. This is an interim service until the Essex wide coordinated response to the current situation is in place.

PCC Update

The PCC is also embracing technology! We gathered together last Wednesday using Zoom technology to catch up as well as talking through the Annual Accounts 2019 and the financial impact of Covid-19 (see article). During this period, any decisions required are being taken by email and will be included in the PCC minutes of our first meeting back together face to face.

Birthdays: Although we are not meeting together we would still like to be able to wish you a happy birthday – please let a member of Standing Committee know if your birthday is near and we will send you a card!