

## SS THOMAS & STEPHEN CHURCH

### MARKET DRAYTON

Dear Parishioner,

I do hope you and your family are well in these challenging times. Please do contact us if the parish can be of any assistance. I write with some Important information for our community.

#### **SUNDAY MASS**

The Bishops of England and Wales invite us all to return to the regular practice of attending mass each Sunday which is at the heart of our faith and love for God. The Sunday mass obligation is to be re-introduced from the First Sunday of Advent, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**COVID SECURE** as best we can. Hand sanitising upon entry, face masks are desirable, social distancing as far as practical.

#### **PARISH FINANCE**

Last Sunday I spoke about something that affects us all and that is stewardship of our parish giving and spending. At the end of the last tax year 2021, the yield from the Sunday Collection had fallen by £6,600, and on present figures is set to continue in the present tax year. A reduction of £13,000 over 2 years is quite a big hit to our parish finances because the outgoings remain the same. In the last tax year, some £4000 was spent on repairs and £2,300 on gas and electricity. The heating system is old and unreliable and there are at present substantial repairs and costs being incurred so we can have heat in church. It does cost much more to run a parish than we might imagine and **every parish has to pay its own way.**

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all our parishioners for your generosity in supporting the parish financially in the collection and in Our Mission Together (OMT). Without your support we could not pay our way.

I know this is a challenge, and of course everybody's circumstances are different, but if 40 households could possibly increase the collection giving by £5 per household, that would at least return our income to the pre-pandemic level. Our giving is not just to cover expenses. We have an incredibly generous God and our generosity is an expression of gratitude for God's abundant gifts to us. It is,

**“My gift to God and His Church”**

## **WHAT WOULD HELP?**

- Standing Orders do help keep up the weekly collection (an SO Form is attached, if you would like to consider one, please return to your bank).
- Gift Aid enables increases giving considerably without any extra giving, £5 Gift Aid turns into £6.25 without any extra giving. £10 into £12.50. (This is the government's scheme to help charities by returning tax paid on the amount given. A 'one off amount' can also be gift aided) All that is required is to have paid enough tax for the reclaim. To gift aid £5 requires that the donor has paid £65 in income tax (form attached).
- Using the Offertory Envelopes

If you have any queries with the above, please contact Mrs Helen McSherry on 01630 638177 or email: [sstomasandstephen@gmail.com](mailto:sstomasandstephen@gmail.com).

We do have a beautiful church and a patrimony handed down to us. Let's be good stewards of what we have been given.

### **Your Contact Details**

To help us contact you with parish news, if you would like to share your email address with the parish (data protected), please kindly send an email to Mrs Helen McSherry at [sstomasandstephen@gmail.com](mailto:sstomasandstephen@gmail.com).

Blessings and good wishes,

Fr. Anthony

**Contact 01952 811299**