

AN URGENT APPEAL FROM CHRIST CHURCH. WOODFORD



The background to our 2021 Appeal Fund

Our Parishioners, many other residents of Woodford and readers of our Magazine will remember that back in 2017 we suffered the theft of many capstones from our renovated churchyard wall.

At the same time the Bell Tower had to have urgent repairs after a structural survey identified several areas which needed attention, and for obvious reasons, the work was started immediately.

These two events meant that our financial plans needed to be adjusted to try to recover the £19,000 cost of these repairs which initially had to be paid from our reserves.

We were already having to cover an annual cash deficit of some £20,000 from those reserves, a situation brought about by our ever increasing costs, most of which were beyond our control.

Thanks to the amazing generosity of so many people from Woodford and beyond, we were able to raise the sum in less than 12 months.

Unfortunately, we now find ourselves having to ask for your generous support once again. The following information forms the basis of our need to set up our 2021 Appeal Fund.

On behalf of the Christ Church Woodford PCC we thank you for any past support of our fund-raising initiatives and would be very grateful for any financial help you feel you may be able to give during this most difficult time.

Rev David Russell - Vicar
0161 439 2286

Graham Meare - Treasurer
0161 439 9940

Seeking to know Christ better and to make Christ better known.

The need for our 2021 Appeal Fund

Recently, we have been informed by our Church Architect that our beloved Lychgate, which is a listed structure, was indeed listing, towards the Church. A Structural Engineer's Report outlined the work necessary to safeguard the future of the Lychgate and we have now had to carry out under-pinning and repairs to the structure at a cost of £7,850.

At the same time we have had to install a new drainage system around the perimeter pathways of the Church building which now connect to the Lychgate and main drainage. This additional task cost a further £4,350. So the combined cost of the two projects is a total of £12,200.

You will be aware that we have been forced to close our Church for extended periods since March 2020. We are currently still only able to worship as a congregation via the internet.

We are delighted that we are able to have an 11am Zoom Service which attracts some 30 people every Sunday. All our PCC and Standing Committee Meetings are continuing on-line and we have a Weekly Newsletter being emailed to all those on our mailing list.

Our Parish Magazine is, for the time being, only available via our website www.christchurchwoodford.org and we are sending out emails regarding our other on-line activities and services. We have recently added Zoom Quizzes to keep in contact with as many friends as possible.

Having to endure such prolonged periods of closure have obviously had a detrimental effect on our finances. We are always aware that we walk a fine line in trying to maintain our financial security in the face of ever increasing costs. As stated earlier, most of the costs are beyond our control.

Thankfully, we have been supported by the generosity of our congregation to the extent that whilst we have been closed for those 32 weeks we are relieved to see that our income reduced by "only" £26,000.

So, whilst being closed for 59% of the time, we have managed to achieve some 75% of our target income. Given the size of our Congregation we are delighted that together we have done this under such tremendous pressure.

How you can help us

It is a fact that we still need your help. If you feel you are able to send any contribution towards our target of £12,200 we will be extremely grateful.

We ask that all donations be identified as being for the 2021 Appeal Fund so that they are classified as being for Restricted Use and will be identified separately as being for the sole purpose of going towards covering the cost of the Lychgate and drainage repairs.

We will be circulating this 2021 Appeal Fund document on our Christ Church Woodford website, via email to all our members and to our Magazine readers as an insert when we return to normal circulation, hopefully in the near future.

Should you wish to help us, our bank details are as follows:

Christ Church Woodford PCC
Sort Code 20-82-14
Account: 03470938

Alternatively you can send any donations to our Church Treasurer:
Graham Meare. 14 Hall Moss Lane. Bramhall. Stockport. SK7 1RD
(Please mark your donation as being for our 2021 Appeal Fund)

Progress in working towards our target of £12,200 will be reported in our weekly Newsletters and on our Website.

We will never forget the generosity shown by so many people in the past when we achieved our target and saved our Bell Tower.

We can only hope that you will be able to help us again at this most difficult time.

Please Note:

There is a Gift Aid Declaration Form overleaf for if you are a UK taxpayer and eligible to Gift Aid your donations.

Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax, currently 20% which allows charities to reclaim 25p for every £1 donated.

**Gift Aid Declaration
for Giving to Christ Church Woodford**

If you are a UK taxpayer and eligible to Gift Aid your donations please complete the form below and return it to:

**The Church Treasurer.
14 Hall Moss Lane. Bramhall. Stockport. SK7 1RD**

Please treat as Gift Aid Donations all qualifying gifts of money made by me from the date of this Declaration and in the past four years.

I am a UK Taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Title: **Full Name:**

Address:

.....

Post Code:

Signature: **Date:**

Notes:

Please notify the Church Treasurer if you:

- a. Wish to cancel this Declaration
- b. Change your name or home address
- c. No longer pay sufficient tax and/or capital gains.

Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax, currently 20% which allows charities to reclaim 25p for every £1 donated.

If you pay income tax at the higher rate or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid Donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue & Customs to adjust your tax code.

If we already have a Gift Aid Declaration from you please indicate this at the time of any donation you are able to make.