



Timsbury Benefice: Parishes of Timsbury with Priston,
Camerton and Dunkerton

Rector: *Revd Martin A Blewett. M.A, Dip Theo.*



The Diocese of Bath and Wells

21st April 2020

Urgent Financial Assistance for St Luke & Andrew's Parish Church

Dear Friends of St Luke and St Andrew's Church,

I hope you don't mind me writing to you at a time when many of us have a lot on our mind and concerns for our family and loved ones. I hope whatever your situation you are well and that your family and friends are safe.

Can I say a big 'Thank You' on behalf of church and community for all that so many of you do to look after the older, vulnerable and self-isolating members of our village community? One again, many people have said to me how much they have benefited from living in a village like Priston at this time.

Whilst our church buildings are shut because of Covid-19 restrictions, the Church is alive and well and I hope you have been able to access some of the Easter and Sunday services that we have been able to put on the village Facebook pages and thanks to Richard Bottle, on the village webpage.

Although the church building may be closed and church services not possible in the familiar sense, unfortunately the costs of running the church, parish and ministry of the wider church do not go away. We have significant ongoing bills for utilities and maintenance to pay and our Parish Share to the Diocese, which not only assists the Church in Somerset to continue its ministry to villages, chaplaincy in hospitals (enormously important at this time) and schools, but also to ensure clergy can be present to continue their parish ministry now and in the months to come.

A considerable amount of our church income comes from the weekly offering-which at this time we have not been able to receive. Some people make their gift to the church by regular Standing Order (SO) or Direct Debit (DD), but quite a few of our congregation do so by cash or envelope in the offering plate or bag, and this is income that is currently lost to us.

As we are facing considerable financial difficulty, our Treasurer and Churchwardens have agreed with me that it is important for me to ask that if you do not currently give to the church by SO or DD to switch to doing so. This can be set up online very easily for a regular amount to be paid to the Priston Church Account.

Stuart Pow, our Treasurer, can very easily provide details of the Account and help you set up a regular payment. I appreciate that for many this will be a new and unwelcome way of doing things, but most of us already pay our household bills in this manner.

(Cont. over...)

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May I ask you to consider how you might be able to help St Luke and St Andrew's Church and the wider Church at this time by contacting Stuart on

Tel 01225 339592 or by email on: stuartpow@live.com

and switching to regular SO or DD giving please?

I recognise that there are many very worthy causes looking for help at this time and some of us have concerns for our own financial position. The Bible reminds us that God always gives back far more than we give, in a very large number of ways. So, may I thank you for your help at this time; it is deeply appreciated.

Please feel free to contact me at any time, to talk over this or other matters, and look out for me on Saturday mornings when I take a stroll through the village!

May you know God's rich blessing at this time,

Sincerely,

Martin

Martin Blewett

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