



St. Paul's Boundary Road

Your church in the community

www.stpaulsboundaryroad.com



19th July 2023

Dear Friend,

Greetings in the name of Jesus, who demonstrates the loving and generous nature of our giving God!

As you may have noticed, this summer at St Paul's we have been considering the subject of giving – both financial and otherwise – in some of our services.

One of the things that I have been keen to stress recently is that everything we do at St Paul's can only be done because of the committed giving of our congregation and community. That doesn't just mean everything we do for and in the community, such as our Café and Garden projects, but rather anything and everything that we do *at all*, from our Sunday worship through to our outreach projects. And neither does 'committed giving' refer to just financial giving, but rather also the crucial giving of time and talent, without which we could not function as a church.

So the first thing that I want to say to you, and from the bottom of my heart, is simply this:

Thank-you.

Thank you for your commitment to what God is doing here at St Paul's, thank you for the gift of your time and energy, and if you do, thank you for the financial support that you generously offer the church.

The second thing that I want to say, or in fact to ask, is this:

What is God inviting us to step into?

I believe that God is inviting us all as individuals to step into *sharing* and *generosity* and therefore into a community of *support* and *celebration*. I believe that when we 'dare to share', true and authentic community is built and celebration and joy follow. That is why two of our key values here at St Paul's are *generosity* and *celebration*. That is why we are so keen to offer celebration and generosity to our community, through our social eating and outreach events, as well as through inclusive and welcoming worship. That is why I am keen to encourage us all to give *what we can*, that the mission and work of the church be enabled, but also that we may *all* step into the freedom and trust in God into which we are invited.

But I also believe that we are invited, as a church, to step into a place of confident and sustainable mission in our community.

This is where we really need your financial support. Over the last two years or so, we have pioneered a community Café, a meditation-based spirituality course (that continues to be developed), a social-eating programme, a Memory Café, a Grief Café, and have established links with community groups running projects including a 'Social Supermarket' and a support group for parents / carers of children with additional needs, amongst others. We have also moved towards a self-funding model for our youth work, where the congregation meets the majority of the costs of our Children and Youth role, through our '30 for 30' campaign.

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Significantly, we have also been able to employ a part-time Project Manager, and now a Communications officer (who has made a huge difference to our visual communication) through the support and commitment of the congregation, as well as through grant funding. These roles and individuals have contributed so much to all that is going on at St Paul's.

It is crucial now that we move forwards in two ways: **Sustainability**, and **Confident Invitation**. Sustainability will come both from continued partnership with grant funding bodies, but also through increased financial support from a growing congregational community. Confident invitation will come from practice, and from continuing to develop our Sunday worship that we can be confident to invite people to *come and experience* a God of generosity, love and inclusion.

In order that we can continue to develop as a church, I ask whether you feel able to increase your financial giving; perhaps in line with inflation (since the last time you assessed it) or perhaps even more generously, if you are able. Can you help us move towards a sustainable and confident future?

However, I also want to say this: at a time of increased financial stress for all, it may be that you honestly cannot afford to give any more. It may even be that you feel the need to reduce your giving. If that is so, then please understand that I and all at St Paul's are tremendously grateful for anything that you give, however small it may seem to you. We remember what happened in John 6, when a child with nothing more than five loaves and two fish offered it to Jesus! 5000 people were provided for! God can do tremendous, miraculous things with all that we offer. [tweak here for new givers]

Whatever you are able to give, I want to end by thanking you, again, for your involvement, support, and your prayer. Please do continue to pray for St Paul's, that God may continue to lead, to guide, and to provide for God's work in this place. Please do pray that God will draw to St Paul's those who need a vibrant, inclusive, and community-focussed church. Please do pray that God will allow us to move towards a sustainable, confident future.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

Every blessing,

Tim

How to respond

You can **amend your bank standing order** directly with your bank, either by letter or using your banking "app" online (that's really easy).

Please just **let us know your plans** so that we can track our progress, **by emailing** finance.paulschurch@outlook.com, noting your future planned giving.

If you don't think you have signed a **Gift Aid form** and you pay tax, (*that enables is to claim back an additional 25% from HMRC – no additional cost to you*) then you can **access a Gift Aid form here**. Just fill in your details (single name of the taxpayer) and email it back to finance.paulschurch@outlook.com

If you're interested in a **[simple picture of our financial position, it's here](#)**.