***DELETE AND AMEND EVERYTHING IN ITALICS BEFORE PRINTING***

***(Letter 1: Thank you letter to current givers and those who contribute to the life of the Church)***

 **Love your Church**

Dear *(insert name)*

Thank you for the contribution you make to the life of our Church and your involvement as a member of our Church community.

As a Church we are keen to serve the community round us and in doing so, we can show what our faith means to us and share the love of God with others. However, all of this comes at a cost of time, talents, and money. As you may know, our funding comes predominantly from the generosity of those within our Church community, through collection plate donations, fundraising and regular giving. Sadly, due to COVID, our income has fallen but our Church outgoings continue to rise, and we need to ensure our income increases to match.

We are keen to ensure we handle our finances as efficiently as possible to maximise what we can do as a Church. This includes careful budgeting and minimising our outgoings. We must also make the most of the ways available to us to boost our income and with this in mind I would like to ask you to consider the following:

**1. How much are you able to give to the work of the Church?** This is a question only you can answer. Give a gift that you feel happy with. However, The Church of England encourages Christians to consider prayerfully giving 5% of their income to their local Church and 5% to other causes. You may wish to make the decision about how much to give as a household, rather than as an individual.

**2. To give via the Parish Giving Scheme** which is a direct debit scheme rather than through your existing method. You can find out more and set up your giving online by visiting [www.parishgivingscheme.org](http://www.parishgivingscheme.org).uk and searching for our church.

**3. If you currently give regularly by envelope or by standing order** and wish to continue to do so, that is fine. However, although it is easier and more efficient for the Church if you could consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme, all generous gifts are equally valued however they are given.

**4. If you currently put cash on the collection plate,** we would be very grateful if you could consider giving on a regular planned basis, as this makes it easier for the Church to budget although we are thankful for all gifts however they are given.

By taking the time to consider these questions, you are helping us to plan how best we can serve both God and the community.

If you would like to discuss things further, please contact me or the Church Treasurer, (insert Church Treasurer name and contact details*)*. We would be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you once again for your contribution to the life of the Church.

Best wishes

*(Signed by incumbent)*