

Your church



Since Ruth our vicar, arrived at St Peter and St Paul's in February 2019 we have worked towards three priorities - better communication, church growth in the broadest sense (not just on Sundays), and improved income. We agreed to balance careful, responsible money management alongside warmth, generosity, and love for all around us.

During 2019, church attendance grew, communication improved in various ways and our regular giving increased.

Sadly, the events of 2020 halted that progress, but we still look forward to some exciting plans and big projects, for example, a community hub in the Brassey Centre, an audio-visual system in church, a rose garden and a new roof for the tower.

Thank you

Throughout the lockdown in 2020 and beyond you have given generously – our donations increased by an astounding £9000. Thank you.

However, to carry on funding the vital work of the church we are going to need your continued support. We are not out of the woods yet!

Church finance

As restrictions have eased we look to a better future from a far stronger position than would have been the case, because of your extraordinary generosity.

However, having to close the church for a long time, and limit attendance when it was open again meant that our income suffered greatly, and we are asking you now to think again about what you give to St Peter and St Paul's.

In normal week in a normal year we spend approximately:

Ministry costs	£947
Church running costs	£315
Parish office & admin	£221
Maintenance & repairs	£153
Brassey Centre	£273
Reserve for major projects	£100
Other	£10
Total	£1,972

Our weekly weekly income in 2021 is:

Planned giving	£846
Cash collections	£20
Gift Aid	£200
Fundraising & Donations	£310
Brassey Centre lets	£25
Investment income	£231
Fees for weddings & funerals	£127
Other	£10
Total	£1,769

Why do we need to pay?

One of the misconceptions around church life is that we are somehow funded by external sources. That is not the case. Very nearly all our income comes from our congregation and community with a small proportion coming from other sources, like grants.

We contribute to the Diocesan Common Fund which provides ministry, support for mission and discipleship, training, safeguarding, and other things which are a vital part of enabling God's mission in our parish and the wider diocese.

Stewardship

Stewardship is not all about money; the careful stewardship of all God's gifts to us is something that responsible congregations should be aware of and working towards all the time. How do we nurture those gifts to best effect, for the sake of humanity, the creation and to honour God?

Giving financially to the church is one way of responding to God's generosity toward us, which will enable his church to flourish.



Difference

We all have different amounts of money and we all have different abilities and talents. Many of us recognise that these talents and gifts, like our possessions and wealth, are generous gifts from a generous God, and we offer them back to God to use within our church and the wider community.

Thank you for whatever you give.

Think about planned giving

Many of the church family give a set amount to the church each week, month or year, usually by standing order.

Joining the planned giving scheme offers various advantages to the church and you. If you are not already part of the scheme, anything you can offer will make a big difference to our church's finances. Your gift will be received by the church even if you are away on some Sundays. It will be easier to gift aid the donation, and the treasurer will have a better idea of how much the church will have and how we can support our vision and plans for the future.

What to give

What we give is a matter between ourselves and God. He just asks us each to shoulder our responsibility as a member of the family of our church to the best of our ability.

This ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but overflows with many thanksgivings to God.
2 Cor 9:12

The next step

Thank you again for all you do for St Peter and St Paul's. Please think and pray about what you give now. Can you:

- Start to give financially or increase your giving to God?
- Join the planned giving scheme by setting up a standing order?
- Optimise giving using Gift Aid if you pay tax?
- Give proportionately - a percentage of your income given to fund ministry?
- Alternatively, give a lump sum?
- Could you leave a gift in your will to your church?
- Could you volunteer time or talents to the church family?

Please make any response in confidence using the form provided and Gordon Sladen, Anchor Oast, 192 Rochester Road, Aylesford ME20 7EA or by email to gordonsladen@gmail.com.



St Peter and St Paul Aylesford



Giving Sunday