



18th September 2021

Dear member of Aylesford Church community

We are writing to thank you for your contribution to the life of St Peter and St Paul's Church, Aylesford and to invite you to a special service, at church, on Sunday 3rd October at 10am.

The past eighteen months have been difficult in many ways. Having to close the building for such a long time was a source of grief to all of us who value the worship and friendship we find there.

Our buildings closed but the church did not! We carried on as best we could, particularly with services on Zoom. Financially, despite the difficulties, donations increased to £9,000 in 2020. This was extraordinary generosity, so, despite the loss of income from other sources, we are in a much better place now than we imagined we might have been in and for that, thank you. Your help has also enabled the continuation of work, such as support to the isolated, and the food bank, which has led to increasing engagement with the local community.

However, unfortunately, we are not out of the woods yet. We need to achieve a sustainable financial future to enable us to continue to maintain and build on the work of the church. To be clear, we need to increase our regular income, to offset the ongoing losses in income, to eliminate our current deficit and to build for growth.

To present and explain all this, we have designated Sunday 3 October as 'Giving Sunday'. We will celebrate the much-valued work of the church and the generosity of the people. We will be making a presentation setting out the financial position and explaining the vital part that financial giving plays in the life of the parish and the wider community served by the church. We hope to encourage everyone to understand the impact your personal giving makes and to consider how you might respond in the light of your circumstances.

Please do come to this very important 10am service, even if you might not always come to church every week. If you cannot come in person, please join us by Zoom if possible (Zoom details will be on the church website: [www.aylesford-church.org.ok](http://www.aylesford-church.org.ok)). After the service and presentation, there will be the opportunity to get answers to any questions and to enjoy some celebratory refreshments.

We have achieved a great deal over the last couple of years, despite Covid-19. None of this could have happened without your regular and generous support both financially and in other ways. Thank you again.

We look forward to seeing you on 3rd October at the 10am service.

With all good wishes,

*A Ongley*

Aline Ongley (Churchwarden)

*W A Longmuir*

Alan Longmuir (Churchwarden)