

# St Michael and All Angels' Church with St Eadburgha's Church, Broadway



## Broadway PCC

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Charity Registration Number - 1129380

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Dear Church members and people on the Church Electoral Roll

You have all been in our thoughts over this difficult year and we continue to hold you and your families in our prayers. We pray for God's blessing on you and on our country, now and in the months ahead.

### What have we been doing?

As churches across the country have had to shut their doors during the pandemic, we in Broadway have been finding ways to live our faith through social action. This has included, but not been limited to, helping the Village Support Group, delivering shopping and medicines, arranging numerous worship events by Zoom, preparing for the Christmas Hamper Appeal, and much more. As a church, however, we are committed to returning to all that was good about our gathering and usual patterns of worship, as soon as it is safe.

### HOWEVER! ....

Our churches are in a financially perilous situation, and we felt that you should know. Our income to date this year is £37,000, while expenditure, would be £85,000 if we had paid our Parish Share. Obviously, this is not a sustainable position. **We have currently paid no Parish Share this year.** Indeed, we have not paid in full for the last 5 years.

### Does this matter?

Parish Share is the means through which the diocese pays the clergy. For too long parishes like ours have not been paying in full and as a result the number of clergy in the diocese is having to be reduced. In the future, it is anticipated that there will be a direct link between the cost of the ministry received by a parish and the Parish Share paid. This will give parishes greater control of their finances: if a parish can't or chooses not to pay Parish Share in full, they will be offered assistance to reduce their cost of ministry by sharing their vicar with more churches.

This new approach to calculating Parish Share is not due to be introduced until 2022 but we have been contacted in advance as one of the places that are currently furthest from paying enough to cover the cost of the ministry received. If Broadway is to continue to have a full-time priest-in-charge, as currently, we need to pay significantly more.

### What does this mean?

We need to make difficult decisions about what the Benefice can afford. Put plainly, if we cannot increase our income, we will need to agree to a reduction of clergy time in Broadway. This will mean fewer regular services in church, greater difficulty accessing church for weddings, baptisms and funerals, vastly reduced capacity for Home Communion, visits to care homes – and the death of the church as a major community presence in our village.

### What can you do?

We need to change the way we think of giving to help God's work in the church. Generosity is one of Scripture's key principles and our finances are an area in which we, as Christians, practise generosity.

We are asking you to consider “tithing” some of your income to the church. Historically, tithing meant giving a tenth of your income. Nowadays, we appreciate that there are myriad calls on your income and 10% may feel vastly unrealistic, but we would ask you: what **can** you afford? Would 5% be possible?

Giving directly to the church through the **Parish Giving Scheme** is easy both for you to set up, and for us to manage. It allows you to donate your chosen amount regularly and enables us as a PCC to know more accurately our forecast income. We have included a Parish Giving Scheme Form for you to return.

If you would like to talk this over with the priest-in-charge Shellie or Kevin Beasley, please do so:

Shellie – 852352 Kevin - 858672

### **The Next Steps ....**

- We sincerely hope you will sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme, having seriously considered what is the appropriate amount you can gift regularly to your church.
- We will publicise our financial situation in the Broadway Magazine, on the church website, etc. and ask for help from the wider village community. Many local people want the church cared for, insured and open for their weddings and funerals, and the graveyard well maintained, so we hope they will undertake to participate in the costs.
- As soon as restrictions allow, we will be available for face-to-face discussions about the church’s finances and what the future holds.

### **Thank you.**

Our churches are not just “our” churches: they are your churches, and the churches of your children and grandchildren. We passionately want them to be here for you all, whenever you want or need them, and we feel it right that you should know the serious position we are in. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Together, we hope we can continue to love and care for all who live in our parish.

Yours sincerely

*Broadway Parochial Church Council*