

St. Augustine of Canterbury, Apostle of England, Belvedere. Under the Extended Episcopal Care of the Bishop of Richborough

Parish Priest

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Dear Brothers & Sisters

We will all be aware that the past few months have been very challenging for most in a variety of ways. Many have felt spiritually deprived especially as the inability to receive the sacraments regularly is so alien to us. I'm sure we are delighted that mass has now resumed.

May I thank everyone who has maintained their sacrificial giving whilst fully appreciating that not all have been able to. Charities including the church have all lost large sources of income whilst their expenditure has not reduced. We rely quite heavily on our hall income of around £1700 per month and fundraisers such as fairs and quiz nights which have not been able to take place. When lockdown happened, our hall income dried up overnight.

We are currently negotiating with our hall users as to how to return in a Covid Secure way. However, as a parish we have taken a financial hit of £8000 from our reserves.

We have still had to maintain our Share to the Diocese of Rochester of £3000 per month which pays towards the priest's stipend, vicarage upkeep and the workings of the diocese who employ solicitor's accountants and surveyors on our behalf. Some also pays for the training of future clergy. In addition, we have other bills such as insurance, utilities, cleaning etc which have been maintained.

in light of the above I would like to appeal to you in consideration of the absence of a summer fayre or draw, that you may like to make a one off payment if you are able.....

We are trying to avoid cheques and cash payments now if possible. Payment can be made direct to our bank by BACS transfer PCC St Augustine Belvedere 09-07-20 a/c 06751911

We also have a contactless giving terminal if you prefer to use a debit card in church. Those who give regularly by standing order or envelope are encouraged to re-consider their giving in a prayerful way. Those who are tax payers should complete a gift aid declaration to enable the parish to recover tax at no cost to yourself on donations made.

With thanks for your partnership in the Gospel

Every blessing

Fr Clive