# New ways of giving

This is a very challenging time for us all as we adjust to the restrictions that are helping to keep us all as safe as possible from Covid-19. We are living through a period where so much that is familiar appears to be changing or under threat and yet we have the comfort of believing in a God who is always present, even in the darkest times. It has been good to hear stories from across the Diocese of how people are living and telling the story of Jesus as they work within their communities to support one other and those in need. We can give generously in so many ways, through time, skills and money and they all make a difference in the lives of our communities. Thank you for your faithfulness in all that you are doing.

For some right now, money may feel like the least important thing, but for some people, where income has reduced or disappeared, money may be an urgent concern. Where we have the means to do so, we could look for sensitive ways to bring blessing and relief to those who are suffering in this way.

Our churches, who rely on regular giving, are experiencing similar concerns about how they meet the costs of the ministry and mission they provide and ensure that the church is secure for the future. Because of the very real challenges that people are experiencing, the financial support our churches receive will almost certainly reduce very significantly whilst our buildings remain closed.

The usual ways in which we give financially may not currently be possible but there are alternatives that you might like to explore if you are able:

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| **Giving electronically, by standing order**, is by far the best way if this is possible for you. It means the church knows what its regular gifts are, and they can plan their work accordingly and be more confident about covering the costs that enable the church to function (ministry, utilities, maintenance and other projects). Please contact your church if you need help with setting up a standing order **or making payments using your internet banking service** – all you need is the sort code and account number of your church’s bank account. *[Each Parish could provide this here]* |
| Giving cash by envelope or on the church plate is always appreciated, however it may be some time before regular services are resumed. As such, if you are able to change the way you give to your church to either **standing order or internet payments** this would have a very positive impact and reduce the stress and potentially difficult decisions that may ensue for your PCC. |
| Your church may also have other ways to receive gifts via **contactless devices / online giving / donation platforms or PayPal.** If you need any more information about these please contact your PCC or church treasurer. |

As church, we are the body of Christ, living out our faith in the world in response to God’s love for us.  We hope that you stay safe and well in body, mind and spirit though this difficult time and give thanks for any ways in which you are able to support the work of the church so that we can be a light within our communities.