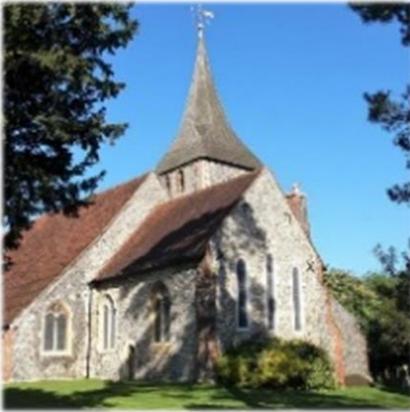


St Martin of Tours Chelsfield Giving Appeal 2020

St Martin's worships and serves a loving God

Giving thanks at St Martin's



There is much to give thanks for at St Martin's. For nearly a thousand years, our Parish Church has been a spiritual home to many generations of villagers. This inspirational and spiritual building, surrounded by its large tranquil Churchyard, not only helps shape the character of our village, but is a reminder of the presence of God in our daily lives, supporting people at times of joy and of sorrow.

Additionally Well Hill Mission, established in 1890 to meet the spiritual needs of the hop picking community, has been serving that part of the parish for 130 years.

St Martin's is very much at the heart of our community, offering a haven of peace and reflection. We are grateful to all who support our work – generously giving their time, their talents and their money.

Your support will help us to...

- ① Continue to offer regular worship at St Martin's and Well Hill.
- ① Serve the local community as a place for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, and those services which bring the community together at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance.
- ① Visit and minister to the sick, the bereaved and others in pastoral need, including those living with dementia.
- ① Care for our church building and its surroundings, so that this focus for community and spiritual life can be passed on to future generations.



Christingle 2018

Please read on to see how your support can make a real difference ...

Our Challenges - now, when our income has been hit by Covid-19:

Firstly, it must be said that many of our congregation already give regularly via Standing Order, which has preserved a significant part of the income we receive - for that we are truly thankful.

But the income we receive at services in the collection bags and Free Will Offering envelopes, and other income from weddings, funerals and Brass Crosby Room lettings has, of course, ceased completely.

Our biggest income generating events, the Church Fete and our presence at Chelsfield Village Fair, were cancelled. They would normally bring us many thousands of pounds which is a significant loss this year.

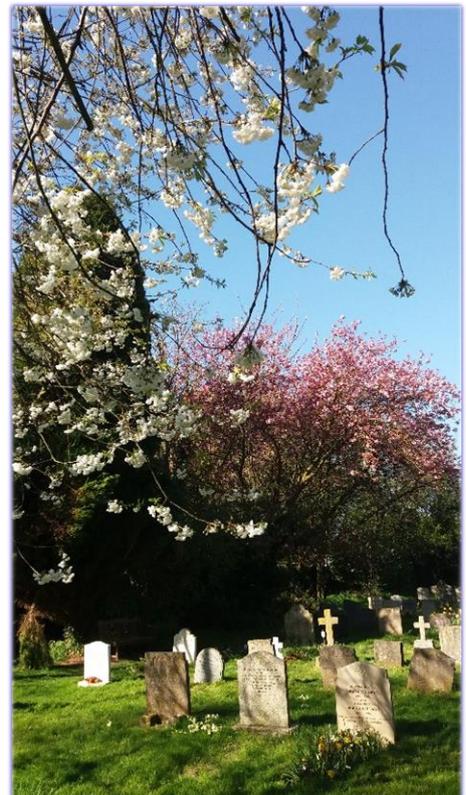
Through giving his life for us, Jesus provided the ultimate demonstration of God's generosity. Giving is at the centre of God's character - God gives us life, and his giving is renewed daily. 'Giving for Life'

Our 'normal' Challenges:

Our parish is one of the smallest, by population, in the whole of the Diocese of Rochester. Furthermore, while it would be difficult to argue that Chelsfield is a 'poor area', St Martin's income is not large. The church has been able to cover its costs over recent years only by keeping the costs low. We do not employ a Parish Administrator, Youth Worker or any of the other roles that many richer parishes can support. Basically, it's the Rector plus volunteers.

Our 'supply' of volunteers has been shrinking over the years and now one of St Martin's great assets, the beautiful Churchyard, is now one of its biggest liabilities as we have had to contract out the mowing and strimming.

We had already budgeted for a loss this year, which meant using part of our reserves to cover costs. The situation now is even more challenging!



How this looks financially...

In **2019** it cost **£ 86,663** to run our church:

Expenses

Ministry costs	£56,720
Church and services	£14,562
Churchyard running costs	£ 6,679
Other	£ 8,702
Total	£86,663

Where did it come from?

Regular giving	£33,764
Collections	£ 7,888

Other sources

Fundraising & lettings	£11,747
Weddings & Funerals	£18,858
Donations & Legacies	£13,441
Other	£ 1,207
Total	£ 86,905

Restricted income*

Donations & Legacies	£23,448
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Total Income 2019 **£110,353**



In **2020** we anticipate spending **£ 79,757** to run our church:

Expenses

Ministry costs	£56,720
Church and services	£12,272
Churchyard running costs	£ 6,144
Other	£ 4,621
Total	£79,757

Where might it come from?

Regular giving	£30,547
Collections	£ 2,650

Other sources

Fundraising & lettings	£ 3,470
Weddings & Funerals	£ 4,159
Donations & Legacies	£ 5,328
Other	£ 746
Total	£ 46,900

Restricted income*

Donations & Legacies	£6,014
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Total Income 2020 **£52,914**

***Restricted income** has typically been given to maintain the building and churchyard and cannot be used to cover normal running costs such as electricity bills or Ministry costs

In summary:

- Expenses have been cut where possible
- Income from collections at services and from fees charged at weddings and funerals have effectively been nil since the lockdown started
- The major fund raising events of Fete and Village Fair have been cancelled and we do not anticipate significant levels of activity this year to recover the situation
- Income of £46,900 falls significantly short of expenditure, by some **£33,000**

How YOU can help...

To all, we ask that you support us in this difficult year -

To our regular givers:

Are you able to increase the amount you give, even by a little, or perhaps consider a one-off additional donation?

To our other supporters:

Can you help us secure the viability of St Martin's in the near term by starting to give regularly, or just a one-off donation, at this difficult time?

Read on to find out the ways you can give...

How much should I give?

The Church of England encourages Christians to consider prayerfully giving 5% (or £1 in £20) of their after-tax income to and through their local church, and a similar amount to other work that helps to build God's kingdom. This is consistent with the biblical principle of the tithe.

Ways to give:

Regular giving – set up a Standing Order with your bank to give the church a set amount each month. It's simple and safe, and the church will benefit from all of the money, as it doesn't incur the administration costs of online giving. It also means that, in times like our current covid restrictions and during holiday periods, you can maintain your donating even if you are unable to attend church regularly.

One-off donation – if you're not able to commit to giving something each month, but you'd like to make a donation to help us at this difficult time, you can either

- Ⓜ Make an *online payment* to the church bank account using the details on the form provided, or
- Ⓜ Use the church's giving page to *donate online* via GiveALittle (NB you can still Gift Aid your donation), or
- Ⓜ Send a *cheque* using the details on the form provided

Giving in cash – although this is difficult at the moment with the restrictions around Coronavirus, as soon as it's possible to do so, the brown & blue Free Will Offering envelopes will be made available in church for you to donate cash. Please place in the donations box (on the table by the entrance).



Gift Aid - a gift from HMRC!

If you pay tax, HMRC will add a tax refund of 25% to your Gift. This Tax Refund costs you nothing, providing you pay as much tax as the Church claims back. Please tick the Gift Aid box on your Declaration Form to make this possible. That is all you have to do!

If you have any questions, please contact the Churchwardens on churchwardens@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk or 07826 516481 / (01689) 854119