**Our church, Our challenge**

Dear

As a church and church community we have achieved a great deal in recent years:

[\*these are examples - substitute own achievements]

* We provided new resources to our pastoral care team supporting the bereaved
* We have sent a team of people to volunteer for Street Pastors
* We held a very successful summer fete, raising significant funds for our ministry
* We continued to develop our worship, prayer life, and our service to the community through parish visiting, funeral ministry and care for children and their families

Thank you for your time, your skills and abilities and, of course, your generous financial giving to St Mary’s, Anywhere.

As Archbishop Justin said when our church buildings closed, the Church of England is not closing down – but even as our church reopens things are different, and in spite of the circumstances that ministry is thriving. Under lockdown e: [\*list some of the things you have been doing]

* Live stream Services from the Vicar’s study
* Talked to one another via WhatsApp
* Delivered groceries to the vulnerable
* Posted prayers on Facebook

**Closed church buildings mean less church income**

Unfortunately our finances are badly affected by the Coronavirus crisis. We expect a xx% drop in income because there have been plate collections in church, envelope giving or donations from visitors to our church. Important fundraising events were cancelled and there are no fees for weddings and funerals. We have significant income from letting our hall and that is lost as well.

Our biggest single source of income is your generous planned giving by standing order, but the loss of money from all these sources presents us with a big problem.

**How can I help?**

Times are uncertain. Many people have lost jobs and will have to reduce their giving. Many however, have incomes which are stable and if you are in that position we ask you to help. Please pray, think and consider how you can contribute at this difficult time:

* If you currently give by putting cash in the collection plate please set up a standing order, even if only for a limited period, or put the cash into a jar and bring it when you are next in church.
* If you give by envelope please set up a standing order. You can go back to using envelopes when our churches are open again if you wish.
* If you are a UK tax payer and haven’t already signed a gift aid, it will make a big difference if you do so.
* Please think about how much you spend at fundraising events such as concerts or the summer fete [\*add your events here] and consider making a one off donation.
* If your own income hasn’t gone down, or you have been spending less please think about making an increase now, even if only for a limited period of time.

Our church is an active and welcoming community. As we prepare to come back to our church things will be different, but we will still be active and we will still be welcoming. At this time we need your help to make that happen.

You can donate online by going to our website/A Church Near You page. [Link]

If you would like to set up a new standing order or donate via bank transfer our details are:

Xxx Bank, Sort code xx-xx-xx, account number xxxxxxxx

If you would like a paper response form by post please get in touch with treasurer at treasurer@stmary’s.org, Phone 01234 234567

We are asking at this time that you reflect, pray, review what you give and how you give and think about how you can do your bit for our church.

Thank you again for all you do for St Mary’s. Without your faithful support our church would not be here today, and your continued support is vital for our future.

Yours in Christ

Priest in Charge