



On St James's Day 2020... I'm writing with an update on how we are getting on as a church in these challenging days, to say a huge thank you for your prayers, support, contact and to all of you who have given donations or revised your planned giving. This has been, and still is, a really tough time for so many people. We will never take your support for granted, and most especially while it's been so hard, we are incredibly grateful for you, just as you are. Many of you will know that in March, we lost almost 90% of our income very suddenly. It's great to be able to say that our ongoing Appeal has, as of today, raised £157,106 of our £250k target. This is absolutely vital income to St James's; it is helping us survive, and represents sacrificial giving on the part of many people. Thank you!

What has happened since we lost our income?

While the church building was closed, we became church online in liturgy, groups, prayer, events, and almost all of the staff were furloughed, or pay and hours reduced. We prioritised our work with people going through homelessness and in the asylum system; so these staff were not furloughed. Hotel bills have been paid for some of our guests with no recourse to public funds; food and vouchers, clothing and cleaning materials have been given out to people sleeping on the streets in our parish, or people going through the asylum system.

A new takeaway hot breakfast has been started, towards the end of the lockdown, and so far 150 meals have been served on a Sunday morning to anyone who turns up. We opened up our site and building as soon as we could for our congregation and local community, and the building is prayed in each day, with our garden open for our neighbours. So many people have had very different and difficult experiences in this lockdown; it's very important to us that we remain as united as possible, in a 'blended church' where some are in person and some are online, so our online worship will continue.

We will spend the autumn generating our refreshed vision

While our Christian character, rooted in the gospels, won't change, our activities might. In all of our regular services our prayers have been that our renewed vision will emerge faithfully, inspired by the Spirit of God. In the light and creativity of these prayers, our refreshed vision will come from you.

There will be a silent prayer held in the church building and online on Saturday 22nd August to accompany this work.

The Transformational Index www.thetransformationalindex.org, will analyse the results of our 'Unlock' consultation and report to the Working Group and the PCC at the beginning of September. Once our refreshed vision emerges, we will work with them on an income

generation plan aligned with this vision, although this will take time. Without pre-empting this in detail, this will continue our commitment to deepening our spiritual life as individuals, strengthening our inclusive, creative Christ-shaped community, and renewing our commitment to people at the margins of society, underpinned by environmental theology and action.

But we clearly need to raise income in the interim period. We will try opening the craft market for 3 days a week in the courtyard from Thursday 3rd September. Our first socially distanced lunchtime music recital will be that week too. Currently, footfall is between 20-25% of what it normally is at this time of year. It will be important in the longer term that even if we could, we move from such a heavy reliance on business income generated by footfall. That's why we're asking for planned and regular giving as part of our own discipleship and spiritual practice as a church.

What resources do we need now?

Covid 19 has taught us that the planned renewal of our online presence must be done now. We are applying to funds to help with the following costs but it's not clear if we will achieve grant funding. Every gift you send will help us.

1. Following the communications project survey held in 2019, we have now appointed a firm www.strudel.co.uk to help us develop a visual identity online and in person that is inspiring, coherent and aligned with our refreshed vision. This work will cost c. £30k. We have some designated funds set aside for this of £20k but we need £10k more.
2. We are applying for permission to install permanent cameras, cabling, screens and audio equipment in the church building for live streaming, broadcasting, online worship and engagement. This work will cost £50k. We need at least £30k more for this.
3. Our main costs at the moment are: reduced Common Fund contribution to the London Diocese (£85k pa), staff costs; Associate Rector and Curate (£80k), Verger team, Pastoral Assistant, Asylum Support, Finance, Admin, HR, building costs; repairs, maintenance, and in the future, much more cleaning.

Please consider joining our planned giving scheme or consider making a donation for one of the items above?

[DONATE](#)

We are incredibly grateful for one-off donations with Gift Aid. It helps us even more to receive a regular gift, as our income is so unstable. There is a FAQ section on the website and please never hesitate to be in touch with queries, challenges, suggestions or thoughts either directly with me, or with the Planned Giving Group plannedgiving@sjp.org.uk

THANK YOU!



The Reverend Lucy Winkett, Rector