

**The Parish of the Woodford Valley with Archers Gate
Diocese of Salisbury
The Vicarage, Middle Woodford, Salisbury, SP4 6NR
www.woodfordvalleyparish.co.uk**

April 2021

Woodford Valley Church Appeal

This letter goes to the many who already provide much appreciated and generous support to Woodford Valley churches and also to those who have shown an interest by their registration on the parish electoral roll.

You will find enclosed a letter which we are delivering to all residents in the Valley in an appeal for contributions. As stated in that letter, our current financial situation is not sustainable. Over the past year especially, revenues from collections and fund raising have been severely impacted by the lockdowns and social distancing requirements, while our costs – mostly fixed but also including the unpredictable costs of maintaining our fine buildings – remain constant. While the financial situation is not yet critical, it risks becoming so if we do not act now. Considering the longer term, we feel strongly that the continued existence of the Woodford Valley as a separate parish and its functioning churches will be significantly enhanced by maintaining a healthy financial position.

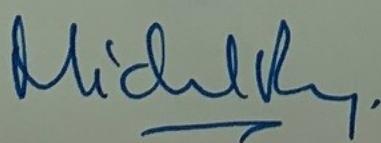
It is humbling to appreciate the support that so many of you already provide for the local church. This is hugely valued and we hope that we can count on your continued support in the future. However, given the church's financial position we also hope that you may be able to consider an increase in your contribution.

For those who make their contributions by standing order, we also ask that that you consider changing to the Parish Giving Scheme which has certain benefits for the parish including the option for the value of contributions to be adjusted in line with inflation.

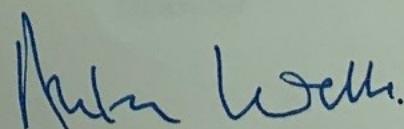
For those of you who contribute through collections and donations, we ask that you consider setting up a regular contribution through Parish Giving, which would assist in providing the benefit of greater financial security to the parish.

We'd be pleased to answer any questions that may arise on this appeal and discuss alternative ways of making a contribution that you may prefer. Contact Antony at aewells@ymail.com / 01980 623 915.

With best wishes,



Mike Perry
Vicar



Antony Wells
Treasurer

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May 2021

Woodford Valley Church Appeal

This letter goes to those whose relatives or loved ones are buried or commemorated in one of the churchyards in the Woodford Valley.

As you will already be aware we are blessed with some fine churches and beautiful churchyards at All Saints in Woodford, St Andrew's in Great Durnford and St Michaels in Wilsford. It remains our priority, despite pressure on our finances, to maintain the buildings and churchyards to a high standard. This includes the care of the graves and the adjacent areas which we hope is appreciated by those who have an interest the graves and memorials there.

I am attaching a letter which we are delivering to all residents in the Valley in an appeal for contributions. As we have sought to set out in that letter, our current financial situation is not sustainable. Over the past year especially revenues from collections and fund raising have been severely impacted by the lockdowns and social distancing requirements, while our costs – mostly fixed but also including the unpredictable costs of maintaining our fine buildings – remain constant. While the financial situation is not yet critical, it risks becoming so if we do not act now. Considering the longer term, we feel strongly that the continued existence of the parish in the Woodford Valley and its functioning churches will be significantly enhanced by maintaining a healthy financial position.

We hope that you will also consider supporting our churches by making a contribution through the Parish Giving Scheme, details of which are attached. While the Parish Giving scheme is our preferred means of contribution, all forms of donation are welcome, either through the 'Give a Little' icon on www.woodfordvalleyparish.co.uk or by cash or cheque payment.

With best wishes,

Mike Perry
Vicar

Antony Wells
Treasurer

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January 2022

Dear Parishioners and Supporters of the Woodford Valley Parish,

Woodford Valley Church Appeal 2021

At Eastertide last year you will recall that we launched an appeal to raise funds for the Parish through the Parish Giving scheme.

Following this, a considerable number of you were able to subscribe to the Parish Giving Scheme, in some cases increasing the value of your contribution; others preferred to continue with the Planned Giving standing order; and others preferred to make a one-off donation

To all of you, THANK YOU for your continued contribution in whatever form or value.

The parish finances are in a considerably improved position. While I cannot yet define the precise benefit of the Appeal, I can confirm that Planned Giving income (which includes Parish Giving) in 2021 is some £8,000 improved on the 2020 amount and revenues through Parish Giving in 2021 total close to £14,000. Together with other revenue sources, that includes one-off donations and returns from the various fund-raising activities, we are now able to balance the books and to continue funding the demands of repair and maintenance of our fine churches and churchyards as well as the day-to-day costs of the Parish.

I'd like to keep you posted on developments in the Parish including the financial position – for instance with the annual report that will be available in the next month or so – in the future. If you would rather not be receiving these, will you let me know?

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Well'.

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April 2021

The Church in the Woodford Valley

We are blessed in the Woodford Valley with some fine churches – All Saints at Woodford, St Andrew's Great Durnford and St Michael's Wilsford – all attractive and ancient buildings that sit in the heart of our community. Together with their well-kept churchyards, their towers and church bells, the churches offer beautiful and peaceful havens available to all of us, whether or not churchgoers.

Of course, the church is about more than just the buildings and churchyards. As well as the benefits of ceremonies for baptism, weddings and funerals, the church in the Valley is integral to our community. It provides a weekly pattern of general worship and contributes significantly to care for those in the community. Even in recent months, when access to churches has been restricted, in addition to delivering support in the community, the church has maintained its programme of services by Zoom which have thrived. And the church provides valuable support to Woodford Valley School, our outstanding church primary school.

However, our buildings and activities come at a cost approaching £100,000 a year. As well as the cost of the vicar's services, there are maintenance, insurance, and other costs for the three churches and the costs of running the parish. No revenue comes from the government or other official bodies to cover these costs: rather, the church is financed by the contributions through collections, donations, and fund-raising events from our wonderfully generous parishioners and residents of the Valley.

Over the past few years and particularly during the pandemic where church services and other activities have been limited, the church's revenues have suffered and we now find ourselves operating at a significant deficit. Clearly this is not sustainable and hence our appeal to all parishioners and residents of the Valley to support the church by contribution, however modest, through the Parish Giving Scheme, details of which are set out in the attached.

Ultimately, if we cannot 'balance the books' we risk the church in the valley being no longer able to provide its valuable service, and the buildings being no longer available for our use – I am sure you will agree, a huge and sad loss to our community life.

We very much hope that everyone living in the Woodford Valley will be able to support our church and its place in the heart of our community. While the Parish Giving scheme is our preferred means of contribution, donations can also be made through the 'Give a Little' icon on the parish website, www.woodfordvalleyparish.co.uk.

Mike Perry
Vicar

Churchwarden