# COVID-19, St Timothy’s, and Money

We are nearly 2 months into ‘lockdown’ and we are having to find new ways of working. St Timothy’s building closed on March 23rd but the church itself is still very active.

I never thought broadcasting was a core skill for vicars; I left that to Rev Kate Bottley and Rev Richard Coles! But with lots of help from Aidan Melville, Chris Porter, and Andy Milner; we are broadcasting Sunday services and daily prayers online. Technology means we are still able to have people contribute from near and far. Our worship team are recording music for services, even though they can’t all be under one roof. And everything is available to watch/hear live or at a time to suit you:

·         On our website [www.sttims.org.uk](http://www.sttims.org.uk/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

·         On Facebook [StTimsCrookes](https://www.facebook.com/StTimsCrookes/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) and[sttimskidscrookes](https://www.facebook.com/sttimskidscrookes/)

·         By telephone on **0114 303 1731**

Alex, Becki, Kate and their team of helpers are still fully occupied providing weekly children and youth activities. Activities include regular weekly groups for different ages via Zoom, daily reflections and challenges, Kids’ Church online, and G-drive resources.

St Timothy’s has become the local community hub. Kate is the co-ordinator, linked in with Voluntary Action Sheffield, mutual aid groups, and several hundred volunteers.

Both the Tuesday Social Club and Wednesday Lunch Club volunteers are regularly keeping in contact with all their members. Social club are having a weekly Zoom meeting and the knitting group have been creating rainbows for members of our lunch club.

Siobhan is working from home and now producing videos for the notices. Our home groups continue to meet. There are still opportunities to meet socially online such as for virtual coffee/chat after the Sunday morning services and a church quiz. We’ve had our first online PCC. There are Alpha courses running virtually. The Ministry Planning and Operations teams meet every Tuesday evening to review how things are going and plan for the future. We also hope to launch prayer ministry after Sunday morning services soon.

Our church building is closed but the church it still active and our work still costs money. We are saving a little by not heating the Church, and we have furloughed some part-time staff – the people who keep the Church and Hall clean, and those who cook for Wednesday Lunch Club. However, we are still paying Siobhan, our administrator, and Alex, Kate, and Becki for their youth, children, and families work. Additionally, we still contribute every month to the Diocese of Sheffield Common Fund, which pays for clergy, housing and pensions.

Due to COVID-19 closures, some important sources of income have disappeared. We can’t let out the Community Hall and there are no collections of cash and giving envelopes at services. This has reduced our monthly income by approximately £2000.

Even before COVID-19, we were already facing a financial challenge this year. We need to increase giving to cover the grants previously received to help fund our paid children and youth work positions – £5000.  We have also taken on a part-time finance officer, George Boylin, to manage our accounts and oversee our finances, costing us an additional £3000/year.

**We began the year needing to raise an additional £15,000. That deficit increases by £2000 for every additional month the Church building remains closed.**

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has continued to give regularly. We are very aware that many people will be under real financial pressure and if you need to reduce your regular giving, of course we will understand.

* If you are able to continue giving now as you have in the past – thank you.
* If you can, we would like to ask whether any of you might make an additional contribution.

**The Parish Giving Scheme**

This is the best way to give regularly (e.g. monthly, quarterly, or annually) to the work of St Timothy's Church.

They collect your donations on our behalf by Direct Debit, claim any Gift Aid if you are a taxpayer, and pass your gift on to us every month.

It costs St Timothy's nothing to use this service, and it saves us a lot of administrative work processing Gift Aid claims with HMRC.

You can also set your giving to increase in line with inflation meaning your giving will always be worth the same amount to us.

If you would like to join the scheme, brochures explaining how you do this are available from:

Malcolm: Phone - 07305 859178 or email malcolm@sttims.org.uk

Siobhan: admin@sttims.org.uk

If you give to St Timothy's by regular **Standing Order**, and are a UK Taxpayer, do think about joining the **Parish Giving Scheme.**

Because they process Gift Aid claims on our behalf, it reduces the time and money we spend on administration, so more is available for other things.

**One-off Donations**

If you would like to make a one off donation to St Timothy's by Bank Transfer details of our bank account number and sort code are available from Malcolm or the Finance Team:

Malcolm: Phone - 07305 859178 or email malcolm@sttims.org.uk

Finance: financesttims@gmail.com

Everything remains under review; we don’t know what changes the government will introduce, and we don’t know what will happen with our finances as a result. However, we are very aware that, if our financial situation continues to worsen, we will face some very hard decisions – including perhaps having to substantially reduce the hours worked by our paid staff.

Thank you for your prayers and for any financial help you can give.

Malcolm Lambert