



## The Parish of Bracknell Church Giving 2021

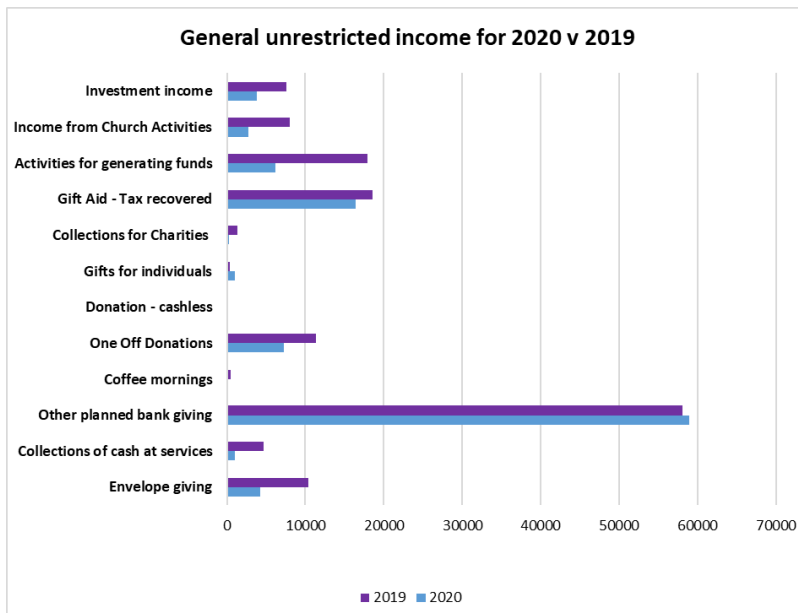


The Covid19 pandemic, which resulted in severe lockdowns and restrictions over the last sixteen months, has been a challenging time for us all. Our parish family has seen life change and adapt quite dramatically in several ways, and it has been really moving to see how we have reached out to one another in love and care throughout this somewhat surreal existence.

God has blessed us in a number of ways, and our pastoral and support work for those people in need has gone on steadily, thanks to our wonderful pastoral workers known as the Holy Trinity Friends, as well as the Food Hub and the Hardship Fund.



During this time, we had to adapt our way of worship and all learn how to use technology for our weekly Zoom/ Facebook services. This meant that our income from weekly church collections ceased and we had to rely on the generosity of our regular bank givers or those who found other ways to donate.

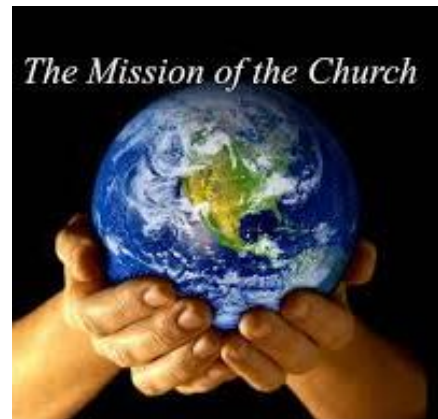


However, during 2020, despite the generous giving of our congregation, our general income, ignoring any restricted giving, was £36,500 less than 2019 (£102,129 for 2020 compared to £138,642 for 2019), as shown in the bar chart opposite.

Going forward in 2021 we pray that we can start and continue to meet in person for worship so that we can celebrate God's goodness and generosity to us. In response to all that we have received from God, we encourage everyone to give as an expression of our gratitude.

## **Our part in God's Mission**

As a church, our vision is to be thriving and full of the life of God, to be at the heart of our community and to welcome all people, to grow in faith, and offer others the opportunity to grow in faith. We recognise that we all need to play our part to see our vision fulfilled - by giving our money, time and skills to serve God and one another. We are excited about the many ways in which God is working through us!



## **What we hope to do in 2021 and beyond**

- We want to continue being a presence in the new town centre, reaching out to visitors and the residents in all the housing developments.
- We need to show practical love and service through Community projects
- Young people are the future of our parish, and so we want to continue to build our children and youth ministries on Sundays.
- There is certainly a need to develop more opportunities for small groups to explore faith and spiritual life.
- There is a need to carry out re-roofing of the South nave and Chancel roof.
- We are called to continue growing our congregations.
- We already have good links with our Church schools but wish to continue building links with other schools and colleges in our community.

## **So how does it work?**

Our Parish of Bracknell is part of the Church of England. We fall under the Diocese of Oxford, but more specifically are led by the Area Bishop of Reading. Our congregation is responsible for the upkeep of our buildings, and for funding all our activities and outreach work. Our Vicar is funded by the diocese, but we are expected to make an annual contribution to the diocese towards the costs of training, supporting and providing ministers across the diocese. In our church we choose to give away 1% of all the general donations we are given, to support the work of other local and national charities and mission organisations. We think it is important to be involved in other initiatives, as well as focussing on our own local area.



## What does it cost?

Our churches cost around £120,000 in total to run each year; or around £2,300 every week. This is without taking into account any large church repairs needed.



Again, ignoring any expenses that can be taken from restricted funds approximately:

- 38% goes on the cost of maintaining and running the buildings.
- 43% is given to the diocese towards the cost of having one vicar (Parish Share).
- 16% goes on staffing.
- 3% goes on the other miscellaneous expenses, licencing and charitable donations.

At present approximately 75% of our income comes through contributions from you, our members. We also receive income from the hiring of Langley Hall, although this has reduced considerably during the COVID19 pandemic, but this money is spent on utilities and the general upkeep of Langley Hall as well as maintaining a small reserve for any future repairs.

## What are we asking you to do?

We are asking you to think and pray about your giving:

- If you do not give to the church at present, we encourage you to think about becoming a regular giver, if possible by way of a regular bank standing order.
- For those who already give regularly, we recognise that people's financial circumstances can change. Does your giving reflect your current situation, or does it need to be reviewed?
- The Bible challenges us to be generous givers. Many Christians commit themselves to giving away 10% of their income. Is God perhaps prompting you to increase the amount you give?
- Have you considered making a legacy or donation in your will?

We recognise that all our circumstances are different, and what's right will be different for each of us.



## What do you need to do next?

If you are a regular attender and would like to donate, our preferred method is via standing order. Giving in this way allows us to plan ahead, spend efficiently and look after our buildings properly. If you are a tax payer, and can Gift Aid your donation, this allows us to collect Gift Aid which increases the value of your donation by 25%. The simplest way to set up a standing order is directly with your bank, using the details below. We then ask you to notify our Financial Administrator to let her know to expect the regular payment. We also ask that you complete a Gift Aid form (if you are a tax payer), and return it to our Financial Administrator so that we can claim the very valuable Gift Aid (approximately 14% of our income).

### Standing Order Information:

Bank:	CAF Bank
Account Name:	Bracknell PCC
Sort Code:	40 52 40
Account Number:	00022817



If you are not able to give on a regular basis, or are a visitor to our church but would like to make a donation, feel free (but not obligated) to give through the offering we take during each service. Again, our preferred method is using our Contactless payment machine, located in church at each service. This allows donations of between £3 and £30 and allows us to claim Gift Aid on all donations taken this way under the Small Donations Scheme. You can also give via cash or cheque (made payable to Bracknell PCC), using the weekly white giving envelopes that are available in church or by placing donations in the church plate.

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## For more info contact:

- Angela Evans (Warden): [btm-churchwarden2@bracknell-parish.org](mailto:btm-churchwarden2@bracknell-parish.org)
- Neil Dove (Treasurer): [btm-treasurer@bracknell-parish.org](mailto:btm-treasurer@bracknell-parish.org)
- Sally Evans (Finance Admin): [btm-finance@bracknell-parish.org](mailto:btm-finance@bracknell-parish.org)

**Giving is done in confidence, and no details are shared with any other church officers or members**