



St John's Houghton with St Peter's Kingmoor

Support Fund Introduction

The mission of the church is
'To love Christ and make Him known'
everything we do is directed by this purpose.

The current situation around Coronavirus has brought about significant changes to the lives of so many people, and in a variety of ways, we are all in need. This may be making an existing problem worse or creating a difficult situation that would not otherwise have arisen. In what was previously known as 'normal times' difficulties arose, so it is not just the unexpected that can make life turbulent or problematic. The need for help can crop up in unexpected ways. We know that through all this upheaval God is in charge and we can have real confidence in that certainty.

God calls us to love our brothers and sisters and to support and encourage one another, in the good times, but even more so in the challenging times. This support is both spiritual and practical. We pray for each other. We can also give other day to day help be it doing a task, making a phone call for a chat, or perhaps the giving of financial support to alleviate a current difficulty that has arisen due to unforeseen circumstances. It may be that these unforeseen circumstances render it impossible for all immediate (and possibly longer term) financial obligations to be met. This can cause great strain and embarrassment.

It is a right and proper response of Christian communities to reach out wherever possible and help. Hebrews 13:16 says "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Doing for others is doing for Christ, as we are reminded in Matthew 25: 35-40.

We have a spirit led desire to do good work that would be pleasing to God. This fund is part of that desire, compassionate and caring in its application. It is right and proper to ensure the fund is efficiently and effectively run and well monitored, based on appropriate regulations, and ultimately responsible to the PCC.

It can be difficult for any of us to admit to needing help, so applicants will be approached with an understanding and a measured response. We must carefully operate the fund, ensuring confidentiality, and be willing to learn and adapt to show as far as we can, that those seeking help can do so with confidence, in the knowledge that they are loved and supported.

The accompanying regulations should be read in conjunction with this document.