

Blessings Fund Report for 2021 APCM – 2020 Blessings Giving

As church, we want to be generous and outward looking – giving back thankfully to God by supporting different good causes at international, national and local levels. We give 10% of church income (regular giving, plate collections and one-off donations). All gifts are agreed by the PCC.

In 2020, we gave the following:

(£250 to the Matthew Rusike Children's Home, £220.14 to Bury Drop In and £200 to Suffolk Mind – included in the 2019 report, but actioned in 2020).

£3000 to the Overseas Mission Fund (OMF) as our yearly commitment to supporting Vatha Theobald in her wonderful work as Under 30s Mobiliser for the East of England.

£500 to Sid Hudson's family, to support them after his head injury. We continue to praise God for his miraculous recovery!

£300 to the Kagera Lent Appeal for our twin diocese in Tanzania.

Despite the challenges posed by Covid-19, lockdowns and service limitations, it has been heartening to see the church responding to need in many other ways too. Not least, in the wonderful caring way church members have supported one another and those in their communities. Special thanks must go to our homegroup leaders and those who took on the role of pastoral carers during the first lockdown and beyond. Particular acknowledgment also to Sam Reid and her amazing work heading up the Rickshaw scheme in Bury St Edmunds. We are also tremendously grateful for our lovely Parish Nurse Lesley and all that she continues to do to support so many in her care.

Christ Church Moreton Hall has been very active in supporting the "Storehouse" food bank this past year, when help has been needed more than ever before. Thank you to everyone for practical gifts and direct financial donations – West Suffolk Vineyard Church are delighted to be able to partner with us in this way.

Christian Aid week in May was a fantastic opportunity to hear about and contribute to the amazing work of Christian Aid – who work with so many of the world's poorest people. The church raised over £2000 on a specially created Just Giving Page, which included a gift of £750 from Christ Church funds. We look forward to supporting Christian Aid again in May 2021. Grateful thanks to Howard and Jane Scott for all their hard work co-ordinating this and keeping us informed about Christian Aid's work

Despite all the restrictions, Christ Church Moreton Hall, under the enthusiastic lead of Jonathan Ford, co-ordinated the collection of 323 shoeboxes for "Operation Christmas Child". This will have made such a positive difference to many young lives, thank you.

We also ran a slightly different Christingle service in the run up to Christmas – Jonathan Ford delivering all the necessary accessories to those who wanted to make a Christingle at home! Donations to the Children's Society were encouraged in response, and we also thank Val Betson for co-ordinating the collection boxes for this great cause.

Thank you all so much for your generosity – it is a great delight to be part of a church that cares about others in need.

I have stepped down from co-ordinating the Blessings Fund from January 2021. It is now a whole-PCC responsibility, so you will most likely get a different voice reporting at next year's APCM! My particular thanks go to Colleen for her support to me with this role; for making all the blessings payments and keeping such a clear record of giving.

Heather Lovell, 11th April 2021