



Gratitude



Generosity



Stewarding the resources God has given us
towards a vision for us and our churches

Gratitude despite a difficult 2020

We are enormously grateful to God that in 2019 our finances as a church meant we finished the year in surplus. This is thanks to the careful church management and generosity through the interregnum, and into the beginning of Brendan's time as rector.

This meant that 2020 although we experienced a big loss in funds, this was covered mostly by 2019 surplus, and by cutting our expenses significantly. Total funds were down just £8366, which in such a year, we are enormously grateful for.

In 2020 your generous giving increased. Although collections were down 50% at nearly £5000 (as no services), planned giving was up 20% (almost £9000). We are enormously grateful to you all for supporting the church though this.

In 2020 we saved where we could - church running expenses down almost 20%. In 2020 we spent £21,000 less than 2019.

We increased our contribution to the diocese to cover clergy costs by 3.9%, paying more than we ever have before.

Without the pandemic, we would have been in a positive financial position, which puts us well placed to emerge from the challenges of Covid.

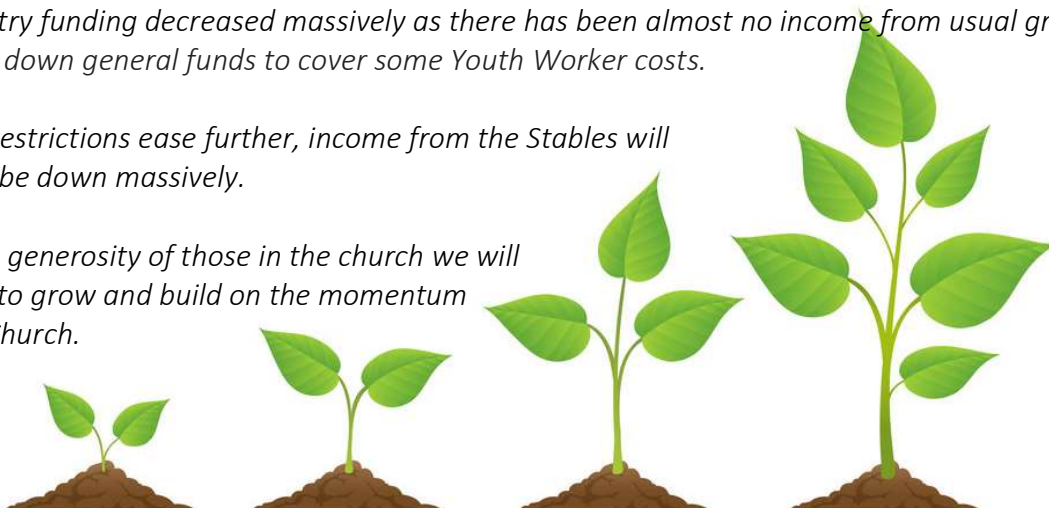
Challenges for 2021

Eridge had no fair in 2020, and without a good fair this year will be extremely precarious for ongoing funds.

Youth Ministry funding decreased massively as there has been almost no income from usual groups, and we have drawn down general funds to cover some Youth Worker costs.

Until covid restrictions ease further, income from the Stables will continue to be down massively.

Without the generosity of those in the church we will not be able to grow and build on the momentum of Festival Church.



5) Gratitude and Giving
Frant with Eridge Financial Support for 2021 and Beyond

We still do not pay 100% of our clergy cost (currently 93.3%), and we are subsidised by the generosity of other churches. The cost of the rector (stipend, housing, pension, training, support) is averaged out across the diocese and less than 100% that means other generous churches are supporting us. Our goal is to eventually pay 100% our cost, and on top of that be able to support other charities and churches.

Some parishes in the most deprived parts of Crawley, Hastings or Brighton are simply unable to raise the average Parish Ministry Cost – and the subsidy for their work has to come from other parishes. The Church of England's objective is a Christian Mission in every parish, which means that those parishes than can afford to pay above the average Parish Ministry Cost must be prepared to contribute more.

How your generosity makes a difference

Thanks to your generosity in a hard year of 2020, we expanded our work.

We now have a fantastic church office, which is becoming the shop front to our churches, where people can meet and engage with us.

We now have our Church Administrator, Sarah, who is efficiently developing the way in which we run and maintain the church as well as how we help and engage people.



Our Youth Ministry under Ed Pascoe is developing fast to become a leading example of rural youth ministry, and has enabled us to help inspire and equip other rural churches. He is working closely with Frant School also, for Forest School lessons.

Festival Church has developed to become a key way in which we do church, mission and ministry. Thanks to your generosity we are creating an amazing Tipi marquee:



Although we were in deficit 2020, and will be again in 2021 due to Covid, we have at the same time invested for future growth that will enable new ministries and facilitate financial income to come.

Why should we give?

The Bible speaks of giving our first-fruits to the Lord.

For many of us this means, we have our giving come out straight away from the income we have in. This also means that the priority for Christian giving is to the Lord and his church first, and then other charitable giving.

Our giving should I think be put into the context of how much we spend on entertainment. For many of us our subscriptions to various things, and eating out, coffee shops put into focus our generosity to the church.

The average giver in the Church of England gives £14.10 a week, for some this will exceed your giving capacity, but it should be remembered that we are in the top 20% of wealthy parishes in the country, and therefore this suggests many people would be able to give above that.

The Bible speaks of tithing 10%, this can be a goal for how far your charitable giving can go.

Our vision for Frant and Eridge churches is for growth:

- *Developing youth ministry through Forest School activities at both Frant and Eridge.*
- *Growing Festival Church to become a significant rural ministry for our parish.*

We hope you can join us on this journey, enabling and equipping the church for ministry and mission in our Parish.

Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

God is generous to us so that we can be generous to others

Jesus gave everything for us on the cross, and we follow him in that example of giving everything for him. Everything we have is a gift from the Lord, and we want to use it to the best of our ability.

Has God been generous to you this past year? For many people it has been a hard year of furlough, business difficulty and job loss. For others though, your income may not have changed dramatically. Has the fact that you haven't spent so much money in lockdown given you the opportunity to be generous to God's church today?

When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest.

How you can give

Give your time, energy and prayers!

Without your presence with us, your commitment to church and your serving of the Lord, our efforts are hampered and our vision will not be possible. Giving your time is one of our most precious resources and brings glory to God!

Make Sundays special for Jesus. Be part of a community group. Find a way to serve.

Start to give regularly or review your regular giving

Please join or adjust using the Parish Giving Scheme, online or by telephone.

This is the best way of giving regularly.

Cash is getting more expensive to put into the bank, making this giving scheme is a cheaper way to give. Plus we missed thousands of pounds of regular giving in the plate when we couldn't meet. The Parish Giving scheme protects the church in the future if we were to ever have another lockdown.

Sign up (or adjust you existing giving) with the Parish Giving Scheme (details on that below).

Please call their dedicated telephone number: 0333 002 1271

(Lines are open Monday to Friday, between 9 – 5pm.)

<https://www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk/>

Two things you will need to do that:

- 1) Your bank account details (Number and sort code)
- 2) Our parish name and code:
Frant Parish Reference code: 10-3060482-CHICH
Eridge Parish Reference code: 10-3060480-CHICH

Give a one-off gift by bank transfer or cheque.

Our bank details are:

A/c name: **Frant with Eridge Parochial Church Council**

Sort code: **20-88-13**

A/c Number: Frant Church **90357316**

A/c Number: Eridge Church **00329827**

If you pay tax – gift aid so we can claim the tax back.

Give while you shop (over £1200 raised so far...):

Amazon smile (0.5% of all you spend is donated by them to us)

Make usual Amazon purchases through <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>

Selecting our charity: The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Frant With Eridge

Other retailers: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/holytrinitychurcheridge/>

Register and click through easyfundraising to the retailer when you buy and the church can receive a percentage, at no cost to you. If you are buying big items, this could make a real difference.

**Much thanks for all your practical support
of our churches in our ministry and mission under God**