



February 2026

Dear Friends

As we move into the season of Lent, when we think more intentionally about Christ's sacrifice and his gift of life to us all, it is also a good time to reflect on our own lives and our life together as a Church. Part of that reflecting is thinking about our stewardship – how we contribute to the life of the Church both financially and with our gifts, skills, and time, and how we use the resources we have as a Church to further the work of the Kingdom of God in this place. As we each consider renewing our financial giving, or perhaps consider regular, planned giving for the first time, I am aware that we all have many other demands on our finances. We are all affected by increases in the cost of living, although some will feel this more than others. Many of us will want to support other charities and good causes. Alongside these commitments, I would ask you to reflect prayerfully on your giving to St Helen's, both financial and in terms of giving your time and skills, and consider whether it is right for you to increase your giving at this time to support the work and ministry of St Helen's Church.

With this letter you will find a leaflet outlining the ways in which your giving supports the life of St Helen's: our worship, our outreach, our support of others, and the church building which simply by being here witnesses to the presence of Christ in this place. The Church, like households and other organisations, has to meet increasing costs for energy and other essentials, and your giving makes a real difference in enabling us to meet those costs, to be able to continue to worship in this building that has been a place of prayer for many centuries, and to serve our community. Also enclosed is a leaflet from the Church of England explaining the value of leaving a legacy to the church in your will. For many large charities this is a major source of income and it would be of great benefit to the future of St Helen's if you would consider such a gift.

As St Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9.7).

Yours in Christ

*Jen Brown*

Rector