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Saturday 1st October

Dear Friends

Firstly, I want to thank you for your engagement in our blue sky thinking morning which has produced some potentially very good fruit. All we need now are the gardeners to ensure that it grows and ripens well with the right nutrients. I am confident that we have those gardeners and that with the prayers of all of us there will be a rich harvest.

Thank you too for your kind comments about my reflections on giving both at the beginning of September and last week which were greatly heartening. I promised that we would be giving you a pack with some interesting facts and figures which would help to give you a picture of the financial situation of the church at this moment in time – it can only ever be a momentary snapshot. In the past money has been given for the development of the hall but this has not yet happened. Taking your thoughts, the building committee and the PCC are determined that this should no longer be kicked into the long grass and this is something that I endorse wholeheartedly. There is money set aside but it will inevitably go beyond this cost. As you will see on the documents I have given you about our blue sky thinking morning there is also a desire to explore how new technology might be used in our beautiful church as well as considering how the space might be better used. All of this will of course not happen without further extensive consultation. But alongside this there are a number of things that we should be able to do relatively easily. Some of them will not demand major expenditure although they will of course incur some.

I am asking you to reconsider your giving as a way of ensuring that we can continue to be a generous church reaching out to those around us with the love of God. Planned giving enables us to budget wisely and to be able to consider major projects. As I am sure many of you know, in order to secure major funding this is often on a matched funding basis. Generous giving enables us to build a secure basis to ensure that people are worshipping in this church in the centuries to come.

As has been said over the last few weeks, all that we are and all that we have is gift from God. We are approaching the time of Harvest on 16th October so if at all possible it would be really helpful if you could return your renewed pledge and relevant gift aid forms on that Sunday in the envelope provided so that they can be offered at the altar.

Finally, I urge all of you to join me in prayer for the future of this lovely place, for its life of discipleship, for its outreach and for its growth.

With my love and blessings

Debbie