**How we did it! Fundraising ideas from around the Diocese**

**£1,000 raised from village calendar**

For the last four years Richard Foley and the PCC at Tarrant Hinton have produced a calendar, that raises at least £250 each year for their church, St Mary’s.

By asking local businesses to sponsor each month, the cost of producing the calendar is covered. People are encouraged to submit their own photographs of the village for consideration, and the sponsors choose the picture they want featured on their month. It is a lovely way to involve the whole village with an easy way to raise funds for the church.

Richard says: “I came up with the idea for the calendar, but it is a team effort; I could not manage this without help from Tim and his wife Bobbie. Once we have collated the photographs we ask a local business to print 50 copies. I give the sponsors a ‘free’ calendar and use our church magazine (the Tarrant Times) to sell the 38 calendars left after the sponsors have had their copies. We always make up a small thank you note with a photo, to show our sponsors how their money has been spent. We try to use at least one photo involving the church and one relating to our history. The calendars sell for £5 and after 4 years have raised over £1,000. I encourage other churches to give it a go.”

If you are keen to try this yourself, consider if there are ways to promote the work of your church. You might consider:

* A thank you message, to explain that the purchase of the calendar raises funds for the church.
* Adding wider church festival dates, such as Plough Sunday, Harvest and Remembrance
* A short paragraph about your church on the back cover, encouraging people to visit
* A way to donate with a QR code, and a link to the website for details of services

If you plan to produce a fundraising calendar in 2023, or if you have top tips to share from your own experience – get in touch and let me know. anna.hardy@salisbury.anglican.org

**How QR codes helped repair our wall – Sixpenny Handley PCC**

In 2021 Sixpenny Handley PCC faced the problem of a crumbling church wall, desperately in need of repair. The wall runs along a footpath popular with dog walkers and villagers, and the Rev’d Richard Hancock had an idea to ask for donations as people walked by. We researched how to create a QR code which would direct people to our giving web site. This was put on a few posters close to the wall, to explain the problem, why we were short of funds and how people could help.

Many of you will have seen QR codes; they have been used widely during the last two years so that people could ‘check in’ at pubs and restaurants. They can be scanned by most smart phones – some by just using the camera - and you are then redirected to a website. This saves people typing in long website addresses and of course is much faster. Our QR code directed people straight to our donation page.

We put up the posters along the wall itself, so it would be seen by people using the footpath. In just a few weeks we had raised over £300 and the funds keep coming months later. It has been well worth the small effort required to do this and has resulted in people asking questions about our Church and becoming more involved. It is also worth adding the code to Service Notice Sheets or on a poster by the door inside your Church, perhaps besides the more traditional Alms Box.

Creating a QR code is much easier than you might think – often the donation platform you use can generate them for you (like Give A Little) – but there are websites that can create them too, like [www.qr-code-generator.com](http://www.qr-code-generator.com) or by scanning this QR code! Get in touch with Anna, our Giving Advisor, if you need a helping hand.

**Launching the Parish Giving Scheme to our wider community**

Stephen Dawson – East Knoyle PCC Treasurer

In 2017, when PCC finances were not looking healthy, we decided to join the launch of the Parish Giving Scheme in the hope that we might increase our annual income to help cover the costs of paying the Parish Share and keep our church in a good state of repair.

The core members of our congregation already gave generously – by standing order and/or by collection in church.  We were claiming appropriate Gift Aid refunds to maximise the benefit of these contributions.  You clearly cannot keep asking core supporters for more money, so the question was how to widen the group of supporters in order to increase overall income.

We decided to launch the scheme by inviting a wide group of local people – core church members and others on the fringes – to a drinks party which was generously hosted by someone in the village with suitable space.   The offer of an appealing location was a great help.  We made a very brief presentation about the need for funds to sustain the church, and the option of contributing via the PGS scheme.  Details were tailored to our situation.

A major factor in the success of this campaign was the decision to offer two options to donors: to support the wider work of the church or, specifically, to support the maintenance of the church building.   A significant number of donors were willing to help maintain our church building, but did not wish their money to go towards the Parish Share!  Many people want the church to be there for major occasions, even though they may not attend regularly.

A further factor in helping launch the scheme has been the ease with which donations can be set up.  The form is straightforward for donors, and it is similarly easy to keep track of monthly payments into the PCC bank account.

The initial reception was followed up with a similar event in the village hall for those who could not attend earlier, and individually addressed appeal letters were subsequently sent to all potential supporters in the village.  The personal approach has worked in many cases, and the PGS scheme now provides a substantial and reliable core to our overall church annual income – especially useful in the last couple of years when collections have been small and fundraising events very difficult.