

**St. Guthlac's Church –  
Reaching out in love, Growing in Faith, Welcoming all.**

**Finances –  
Enabling us to achieve the above and more.**

We are delighted we are able to share with you all our new vision statement: *Reaching out in love, Growing in Faith, Welcoming all.* It shows our desire to support the local community in practical, pastoral and spiritual ways, as well as to growing, to welcome and inclusivity. We are therefore striving to do more in the local community and beyond, aiming for both our worshiping life and all we do outside of the church to develop and flourish.

St. Guthlac's Church is a registered charity, does not receive money from the Diocese or the Government, and runs on donations. It costs £87, 200 a year (£1,677 a week) to keep the Church and ministry in Market Deeping alive. The Church, as a place which we enact our ministry from, is totally supported by you, so thank you. We are incredibly thankful for all your generous donations, which go towards various things, including maintaining the building, sustaining ministry across Market Deeping, and supporting the Diocese (which in turn supports, and enables the continuation of, ministry in our Parish and throughout Lincoln Diocese). We are currently able to support people in times of joy and times of sadness, to offer regular services, and to visit or assist in various ways with the life of the local schools, care homes, almshouses, other local charities, individuals in need, and so on. We simply could not maintain our beautiful Church and all this important ministry without your support -Thank you.

The support the Church receives is wonderful and we are very grateful. Unfortunately, we are still struggling with finances, especially as the coronavirus pandemic has continued to negatively affect the donations we receive and events and services we have been able to hold this year. Restrictions meant we have not been able to hold many fundraising events, have only been able to have Christenings half the year, have had very few funerals and only had one wedding all year. All of these usually play a vital role in maintaining Church funds. Thankfully we were able to hold the Garden Fete this year. It is an important event for our local community and was wonderful to gather people together socially, as well as raising much needed funds. Alarmingly, we currently estimate a short fall at the end of the year of £18,000. Additionally the above mentioned £87, 200 figure, does not take into account inflation, or allow for any major

building works or any increase in ministry and mission in the local area. As our vision statement indicates, we are hoping to do more and to flourish, and our current financial figures make this difficult. We also have some upcoming necessary work on the Church roof to pay for. So, quite simply, we need your help now more than ever to continue to maintain our wonderful Church and to sustain and develop our ministry and support within the local area.

So, we are asking you to please consider donating to your local charity, the church, or to re-consider how much you donate. Many of us assess our finances annually (e.g. car and house insurance premiums, electricity tariffs, internet suppliers, etc) and we are inviting you to please also review your charitable donations and what you can afford to help us to keep going and growing as a Church. The main way the Church receives financial support is through regular monthly/weekly giving. We receive 59% of our income in this way and are hugely grateful to those who donate in this manner -Thank you. Worryingly, our regular giving has dropped in recent years and we need to reverse this trend before it is too late. If you are kindly able to donate regularly, please contact our Church Treasurer, Julie Bacon on 01778 342737 or [nandjbacon@btinternet.com](mailto:nandjbacon@btinternet.com). A one off donation can also be given by contacting Julie or by going to the Churches website and clicking the 'Give a Little' link - [www.stguthlacs.org.uk](http://www.stguthlacs.org.uk)

If 150 people gave an additional £10.00 a month, we would raise a further £18,000 a year. We realise some are not in a position to do this though, and there will be others who could afford more. So please do give it some thought and prayer, and consider donating what you can, either monthly, weekly or annually, to help keep our church and work in the community continuing.

We are very grateful for the support we receive from the local community. It is vital and much appreciated. Thank you very much for it and for considering reviewing your donations to St. Guthlac's Church.

*Rev'd George Holding (Rector) and St. Guthlac's Church Wardens*