

Frequently asked questions:

What happens to my giving during lockdown?

We are very conscious that many parishioners may be facing financial difficulties during the lockdown. Those in difficulty are continually in our prayers and hopefully will be receiving practical assistance from their parish.

We are also conscious that while church buildings may have closed, the work of its people is continuing from home and parishes still have to pay their bills. Wherever possible your contribution is still needed to make sure the work of the church can continue. Most of you will already be giving by direct debit, which means you don't need to make any changes. If you use the envelope or plate giving systems, you may wish to consider changing to automatic payments through your bank, which can be set up through internet banking. Your parish can provide the relevant bank account number for the setting up of an automatic giving payment. If you use your envelope number as part of the reference, your giving can be properly recorded and in due course receipted. Alternatively, you may prefer to save your weekly envelopes or plate giving and contribute it all at once when church services resume.

While we continue to pray for those in challenging circumstances, there may be some whose financial position allows them to contribute a little more during this difficult time. If this is so in your case, we ask you to prayerfully consider helping in this way.

What happens with parish employees?

Parishes will be making arrangements with employees for working from home, so hopefully work will continue although it may look a bit different for a while.

The payroll for the week ending Tuesday 24 March has already gone out, so all employees are paid up to date. The Diocese asks that for the following fortnightly pay period (24 March to 6 April) parish employees fill in their timesheets with their regular hours of work, regardless of whether these have been actually worked due to the lockdown. This means that all parish clergy and employees will be paid their normal stipend/wage/salary for the next fortnight.

The Anglican Centre finance staff are currently collating the financial information required to apply for the subsidy that was announced by the Government earlier this week. This subsidy is available to assist with the payment of wages for those organisations whose income is affected by the lockdown. We will keep parishes informed as further information becomes available.

What happens to any parish houses rented by tenants?

Your tenants will also be in lockdown and it is important they have as much security as possible during the lockdown period. In most cases everything should continue as usual, given the government packages to provide income relief. If in exceptional circumstances a parish tenant is unable to make full rental payments, after investigating the government help available, we ask that vestries prayerfully consider an appropriate, caring response, knowing that this rental income may contribute to the ongoing work of the parish.