

Giving Guide

May 2022



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Normal running costs

- Although our three churches are a united benefice, each one is a separate legal entity, with its own Parochial Church Council (PCC) of trustees and its own financial arrangements
- Our primary concern is to fund our ministry in our villages. That includes the provision of all our services, things like marriage, baptism and confirmation preparation, outreach events and Alpha courses, and much more. We work with specialist youth work partners, the Red Balloon Foundation, and Luke and his team run much of our children's and youth work, together with local volunteers
- To do this, we need a vicar! Each year, each church pays an amount to the Diocese. The Diocese pays all the costs to do with our Rector and is responsible for maintaining our vicarage. It also provides legal, financial and administrative support for our PCCs, as well as training for both ordained and lay people who work in any aspect of ministry. The amount we pay, our 'Parish Share', is by far the largest item in our accounts
- Then there are the more mundane, but nevertheless necessary costs, such as administrative support, safeguarding checks for all our volunteers, utility bills and insurance
- In round figures, our accounts for 2021 show the following costs:

	<u>Standon</u>	<u>Little Munden</u>	<u>Sacombe</u>
Ministry expenses	£15,000	£10,000	£2,500
Parish share	£56,500	£20,000	£7,000
Administration & other costs	£20,500	£6,500	£2,500
	£92,000	£36,500	£12,000

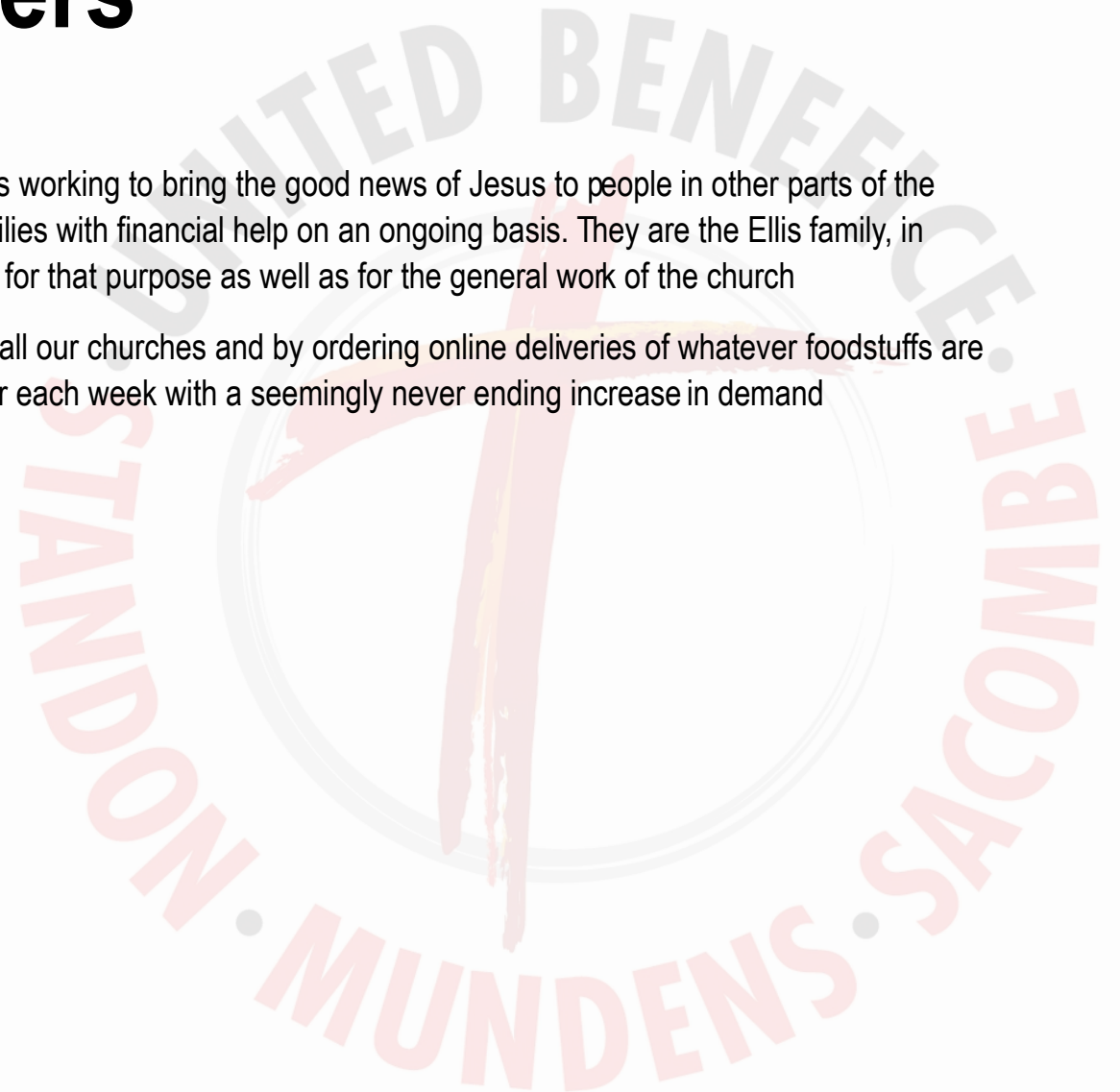
Keeping our buildings maintained and fit for purpose

- All three of our churches are ancient and beautiful buildings, which require careful maintenance and, at times, restoration. Sometimes, we need to make adaptations to keep the buildings fit for their purpose. Listed buildings are subject to all sorts of restrictions, and work must be approved before it's undertaken by experienced contractors
- Every five years, a full architectural survey (the Quinquennial Inspection, or QI) is undertaken and work needed is prioritised between urgent, essential and desirable. Little Munden's QI was completed recently, and there is some substantial work to be done on the roof, which will necessitate significant fund-raising to be done. Sacombe's QI will be carried out in June and Standon's in July, and we wait to see what those uncover, though we already know some of the necessary (and not cheap) work they will turn up
- Recently, all three churches have undertaken large capital projects, and more are needed, when finances allow. Standon has been refurbishing the famous Sadleir tombs, and funds have been raised from Ralph Sadleir's descendants and others who have an interest in these important monuments. Little Munden has had its bells restored and rehung, and a new, much more efficient heating system installed. Sacombe has rehung its bells and it has also installed a toilet and kitchen, which involved bringing a water supply to the church and creating a drainage system for the waste
- When we undertake large projects like this, funds are raised specifically for that purpose and grants are applied for whenever possible. Those projects are outside the 'normal' activities and we couldn't possibly finance them from ordinary receipts. The amounts spent on our buildings in 2021 were:

	<u>Standon</u>	<u>Little Munden</u>	<u>Sacombe</u>
Work on the building & churchyard	£38,006	£32,932	£138,862

Financial support for others

- The Bible teaches us to give as well as receive, and we support mission partners working to bring the good news of Jesus to people in other parts of the world. Sometimes we do that by holding special appeals, but we supply two families with financial help on an ongoing basis. They are the Ellis family, in Zimbabwe and the McGoldrick family, in Burundi. Our members give specifically for that purpose as well as for the general work of the church
- We also support our local foodbank, both by collecting groceries in the boxes in all our churches and by ordering online deliveries of whatever foodstuffs are needed. This is becoming ever more important, as the foodbank becomes busier each week with a seemingly never ending increase in demand



Funding all of this

- Apart from the special projects, our normal running costs are all paid for by our congregations and other well-wishers, with a little help from the fees the law states we must charge for weddings and funerals, and a small amount of income we receive on our investments. Sacombe, which has a very small parish, receives regular donations from people who used to live there and have continued to support the work of the church even though they've moved away, and the other two parishes do too, though to a much lesser extent
- We augment our giving with fund raising events. Sacombe holds 'Soup & Snowdrops' in the Spring and an Advent coffee morning each year. At Little Munden, events occur at particular times, in answer to particular needs. In Standon, the Friends of St Mary's is constantly organising fund raising events to help with the preservation, restoration and renovation of the building
- Our members are encouraged to give on a regular basis, preferably by standing order, but we also accept regular and ad hoc transfers, cheques and cash. They give generously, and we claim gift aid tax on their donations, but we have to accept that at the moment the amount coming in is less than the amount going out, and this is something we are grappling with in our PCCs, as are many other churches. Either we must increase our income or we will have to reduce the amount we can do. There is no other funding stream open to us for our core costs

How you can help

- Anyone can make a donation at any time to any of our churches, or to the benefice as a whole
- Your donation can be given generally, without stipulation about how we spend it, or you can give to support specific projects. The details of the bank accounts appear on the next page, along with the references you should use if your donation is specific. If you would like to contribute to the benefice as a whole, rather than one of the churches in particular, your donation can be sent to the Standon bank account with the reference 'benefice', and it will be shared out among our three churches
- Sometimes, we can't afford to give a lot of money, because we need it to pay for our own day to day costs, but we might have assets that are tied up for our lifetimes, like our homes, or investments from which we draw an income. There are tax benefits in naming a charity as a beneficiary in our wills, and some people think of a legacy as 'deferred giving'. We can't afford to give right now, but when we don't need it any more we would like the church to have something from what we leave behind. Our churches all welcome legacies with gratitude

Making a gift

Donations can be made to any or all of our churches. Please complete a gift aid form if you're a tax payer – you can download it from the website. Any donation you make to or through our churches can be gift-aided

If you'd like your gift to go to a particular church, please use that church's bank details below, or contact the relevant treasurer for details of how to get it to us

If you'd like your gift to be used across the benefice, please send it to the Standon bank account, with the reference 'benefice' and it will be used for our benefice-wide work.

If you'd like to give for a particular purpose, please use one of the references below:

- Donations for the **foodbank** – send to Standon with the reference 'foodbank'
- Donations to support our **missionary partners in Burundi** – send to Standon with the reference 'McGoldrick'
- Donations to support our **missionary partners in Zimbabwe** – send to The Mundens with the reference 'Ellis'
- Donations for the **restoration of the tombs and other capital projects in Standon** – send to Standon with the reference 'restoration fund'
- Donations for **capital projects in Sacombe** – send to Sacombe with the reference 'capital work'
- Donations for the work on **Little Munden roof or other building work** – send to The Mundens with the reference 'fabric fund'
- Donations to support the **music** in our benefice – send to Standon with the reference 'music'
- Donations to support our work with **children and young people** – send to Standon with the reference 'youth'
- If there's some other aspect of our churches that you'd like to support specifically, please contact the relevant treasurer
- Donations with no reference will be used to support all aspects of our ministry and mission locally to the church to which you give it.

Bank Account Details:

STANDON

Bank: CAF Bank Ltd
Account Name: Standon PCC
Account Number: 00032168
Sort Code: 40-52-40
Email: treasurer@ubsms.org.uk

LITTLE MUNDEN

Bank: NatWest Bank plc
Account Name: The Mundens PCC
Account Number: 28599551
Sort Code: 60-10-39
Email: Treasurer.lm@ubsms.org.uk

SACOMBE

Bank: Barclays Bank plc
Account Name: Sacombe Church PCC & Maintenance account
Account Number: 90773689
Sort Code: 20-20-37
Email: Treasurer.sac@ubsms.org.uk