CHRIST CHURCH FOX CHAPEL

The Rev. Alexander Shuttleworth | *Rector*

November 8, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lessons from Romans
When we get to Romans chapter 12 next Spring, Paul will be clear about our need to finance the Church so that we can look after those who belong and reach out to those who don't yet know the Lord as well. But even in the opening chapters, it's amazing how often he uses financial metaphors for the work of Christ and His free gift of grace to us. Most notably, in chapter three he says we are like inmates of a debtor's prison, who have only been set free because that debt has been paid off by Jesus Christ in full.

Our question then becomes, 'how should we respond'?

Applied to Our Church
Like the First Century church in Rome, we have a gospel message that our region needs to hear and a unique resource in the heart of this village's life that we can use to share it.

The Vestry needs your help now, as they plan a budget for next year.

The most pressing needs come from the cost of inflation; an early estimate is an increase of about $40,000 to our operational budget ($22,000 for buildings, grounds, insurance, utilities, supplies, etc and about $18,000 if a cost-of-living adjustment is made to the staff).

Ideally, though, we'd like to do more than keep the lights on, the team properly fed and our missions running. Our dream is to add to the team, take care of a growing congregation, and increase mission and outreach spending again.

Why We Say It Like We Do?
I was encouraged by some of the feedback we received from our building development campaign that we'd been too soft in our ask. It's hard to get the tone just right, and we don't want to let the financial needs of the church down by asking for too little, but in a community where people get asked for things all the time, we try to be kind, assuming the need is clear.

As we turn now to our annual budget, here we go again! I know that you see the need, see the health of the church, and understand the theology too. So as you weigh up what you would like to give in 2027, please simply read the brochure, pray, talk, and most importantly **let us know what you intend to do**.

Yours in Christ,

Rev'd Alex
Rector