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To members and supporters of St Mary's Battersea

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Giving for Growth

"All you need is love." This Beatles song echoed out from the choir two weeks ago, as the conclusion of Revd. Joe Moore's farewell sermon. He said much about the love and care we see in one another at St Mary's, that made us all feel very positive about belonging to our church. I entirely echo his sentiments and want to thank you for the many ways in which you show love – in practical care, the way you look after one another, and the way you give of yourselves.

Occasionally, usually annually, we invite everyone at St Mary's to express their love and appreciation for what our church stands for through a regular financial pledge, given ideally through a Standing Order you set up with your bank. For those who are new to the church – and we are always blessed with new people – this is an invitation to move from giving in the plate when it's passed around, to giving regularly, including when you're not in church (this is key as many of our members only give when they come to church). A regular, planned gift helps St Mary's to budget and provides a secure basis for our work. If you are regular worshippers, many of whom are already giving regularly, this is a chance to review your giving. Circumstances change.

This is not an easy time to ask us to think about a new, regular or an increased financial commitment. We are all living in challenging times, where costs are rising and there are many competing demands on our giving. So, where you can give more generously because you are well-paid, or because you want to make a sensible sacrifice (e.g., a bottle of wine a week), your giving will cover those whose circumstances are such that they cannot give more, or even need to reduce their giving. The brochure which comes with this letter explains more about our needs at St Mary's and how you can respond.

There is also a little information about leaving a gift to St Mary's in your Will, and a reminder that we can receive the tax back (on the standard rate of income tax you pay) from the Inland Revenue through Gift Aid.

All we need is love. Love, though, is shown in action. Please take this moment to review if and how you can express your love for St Mary's through your giving in the coming year.

With gratitude for your thoughtful response

Canon Simon Butler, on behalf of St Mary's Church Council

