



KING'S  
ARMS

WORSHIP | LOVE | MULTIPLY:

COMMITTED

2023

A dramatic landscape featuring a large wooden cross on a rocky peak. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, with a bright light source breaking through on the right side, creating a strong contrast. The foreground shows a rocky slope with sparse vegetation. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

# COMMITTED

“

HE KNEW OF THE CROSS.  
YET, **HE STEPPED FORWARD**  
TO MEET THEM.

# TO: WORSHIP, LOVE & MULTIPLY

Our vision as a community is to multiply disciples, groups and churches everywhere until we see God's kingdom fill the earth. We do this by living lives where we WORSHIP God, LOVE one another and MULTIPLY disciples.

## ARE WE COMMITTED TO THIS? JESUS IS!



A key passage demonstrating Jesus' character and commitment to us is the account of His betrayal in the garden of Gethsemane. John 18 records Judas, alongside a contingent of soldiers and guards with blazing torches and weapons, arriving at the olive grove to take Jesus captive. In verse 4 it says, "*Jesus, fully realised all that was going to happen to him, so he stepped forward to meet them*".

Did you catch it? Jesus *fully realised* all that was going to happen to Him. He knew what was to come and that He would be abandoned by His friends. He knew of the beatings and He knew

of the crown of thorns. He knew of the nails. He knew of the cross. Yet, *He stepped forward* to meet them. All for the sake of love and His commitment to God's plan to redeem the world; to see the church birthed as the people of God.

Jesus remains committed to us and His plan to rescue and restore creation. Whilst we will never be able to compare our circumstances with those of Christ on that first Easter week, in this vision season, **may we be inspired to pause, reflect and step forward with renewed commitment to Him and His call for us to WORSHIP, LOVE and MULTIPLY.**

*Steve Wilson on behalf of the King's Arms Leadership*



“

STEPPING FORWARD AS A PEOPLE  
FUELLED BY HOPE AND JOY  
RATHER THAN FEAR.

# A CALL TO COMMITMENT

**It has been said that if we don't live by priorities, we live by pressures. The reality is that across the globe right now we are experiencing mounting pressures that many of us have never had to face before.**

Financial systems are shaking and trust in national leadership is low. Many of our social services are at breaking point and we are heartbreakingly witnessing wars and suffering in nations so close to home. As we're coming out of the covid pandemic which caused immense chaos and confusion, the pandemic of isolation and hopelessness are still rife.

**It's in this context that the church of Jesus Christ must continue to shine and be the light of the world that He called us to be.**

Stepping forward as a people fuelled by hope and joy rather than fear. It's a time for us to remind ourselves of the commitment we made as followers of Christ, to see God's kingdom fill

the earth through multiplying healthy disciples, groups and churches everywhere.

So, would you join us in taking this season to commit, or recommit, to our church family as we remember our priorities? To commit to God and each other, to commit to the poor and the next generation. To commit to the nations, to making disciples and ultimately see His kingdom come across the world.

# THE IMPACT OF GROUP LIFE

“ GroupLife, specifically David's Cave, has been truly life-changing. I have met with a group of men who support, encourage and challenge me, and are also genuine friends. They have helped me grow, not just spiritually, but also personally. I know that they have my back.

Stephen

“ The groups here at King's Arms have helped my wife and I integrate with people in a deeper and more intentional way than Sunday mornings can.

James



# COMMITTED TO **GOD & EACH OTHER**

In a culture that conditions us to believe that independence is a strength, the church is called to be a place of interdependence. It's one of the reasons we prioritise our Sunday services and encourage everyone to be a part of a smaller group of people meeting regularly, to walk through life together.

Recently, in one of our Sunday meetings, we had two people respond to Christ as part of our time of singing and worshipping Him! It's during our times of corporate worship where we often become the most aware of God's presence amongst us. As we lift up His name and focus solely on Him, we get to engage with God's power to equip us to face our day-to-day challenges with faith and expectancy so that His kingdom flows into every part of our lives.



Hebrews 10:24-25



**LET US CONSIDER  
HOW WE MAY SPUR  
ONE ANOTHER ON TOWARD  
LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS,  
NOT GIVING UP  
MEETING TOGETHER.**

# COMMITTED TO **THE POOR**

**Despite the storms we are facing globally and in our nation, we must continue to serve our town by looking after the poor and marginalised in our community.**

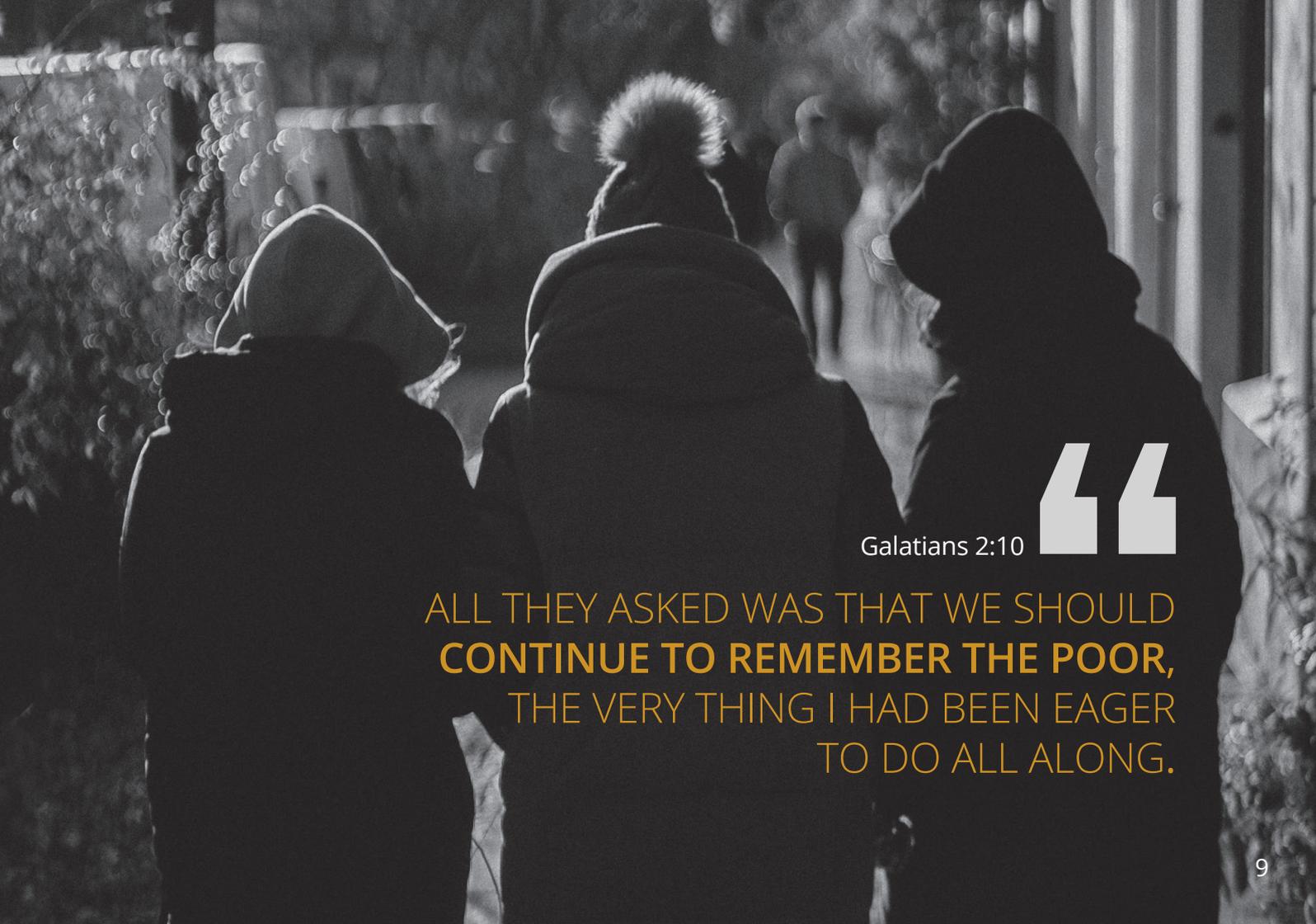
The King's Arms was birthed deeply embedded with this conviction and remains faithfully committed to serving the poor.

We fulfil this call in so many ways, such as sitting down to share the gospel over food with guests at our Friday Night Meeting. Providing community and connection for the elderly through banquets and afternoon teas. Delivering food parcels to those in need and handing out gift boxes at Christmas to name but a few.

One grateful recipient shared, ***"Wow, I am in utter shock at the parcel, I was not expecting anything like this. It brought me to tears. That parcel came at a time of need and I can't say 'thank you' enough."***

At our recent Prayer night we heard from Ukrainian pastor and friend, Andrey, which gave us fresh vision in our response to the Ukraine crisis by sending vans filled with supplies to those helping on the front line.

We will not stop supporting those in need!



Galatians 2:10

“

ALL THEY ASKED WAS THAT WE SHOULD  
**CONTINUE TO REMEMBER THE POOR,**  
THE VERY THING I HAD BEEN EAGER  
TO DO ALL ALONG.



“

Psalm 145:4-5

**ONE GENERATION SHALL COMMEND YOUR WORKS TO ANOTHER, AND SHALL DECLARE YOUR MIGHTY ACTS. ON THE GLORIOUS SPLENDOUR OF YOUR MAJESTY, AND ON YOUR WONDROUS WORKS.**

# COMMITTED TO **THE NEXT GENERATION**

**One generation that we feel especially committed to is our children and young people.**

In a time when so many news headlines speak of the rising levels of depression and pressures on our young people, we're investing our time, love and attention to raising up young men and women who know who they are in Christ and who will bring the hope of the gospel to their peers.

Over the last 12 months, we were thrilled to see almost 20 of our young people make the decision to be baptised and share their testimony of how God has transformed them!



**ALMOST 20 OF OUR  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
MADE THE DECISION  
TO BE BAPTISED**



# COMMITTED TO THE NATIONS

We have the privilege of serving and supporting many other churches across the UK and internationally including long-term partnership with missionaries sent from King's Arms living in the Middle East, North Africa and Central America.

King's Arms is also an apostolic base which means that we are committed to supporting and serving churches and leaders from all across the world who God has called us into partnership with. Primarily, this is worked out through the Catalyst network of churches, led by Simon Holley, and our Catalyst apostolic hub (Resonate), led by Phil Wilthew. We are directly serving upwards of 40 churches in across many nations.



We love receiving updates from our missionaries and recently heard from Paula O'Sullivan who is based in Mexico.

One of the many initiatives she is involved with is the Medical Clinic which serves families in need by looking after their physical health. They are now taking this clinic to the streets too and Paula says,

***"We can clean and treat their wounds as another way of showing the love of Jesus and building a relationship with them."*** Such a beautiful example of Christ's love in action.



# COMMITTED TO MAKING DISCIPLES

Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. We must never lose sight of the mandate He has given us to go and make disciples of all nations.

We're committed to growing as multiplying disciple-makers and as part of this commitment we are launching our new Blunham location, in the East of the county, in September.

We remain committed to our outreach events that happen throughout the year for those in our wider community that might not know Jesus. We loved hearing of a family recently who regularly attend King's Playhouse. Through this, they were invited along to our Christmas Family Fun day and then to our Carol Service. They enjoyed it so much they have now started coming to church! Community outreaches enable people to get a glimpse of God in a practical, impactful way and we want nothing more than to help people to take steps toward Jesus through all that we do.



Matthew 28:19-20



Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

# FUELLED BY JOY

PROPHETIC WORD FROM JOSH SHAW



"As I was reflecting on the season that we're in at the moment, the movie *'Monsters, Inc'* was brought back to my memory and I was reminded of the

fact that in the movie it was fear and screams that raised energy for the city.

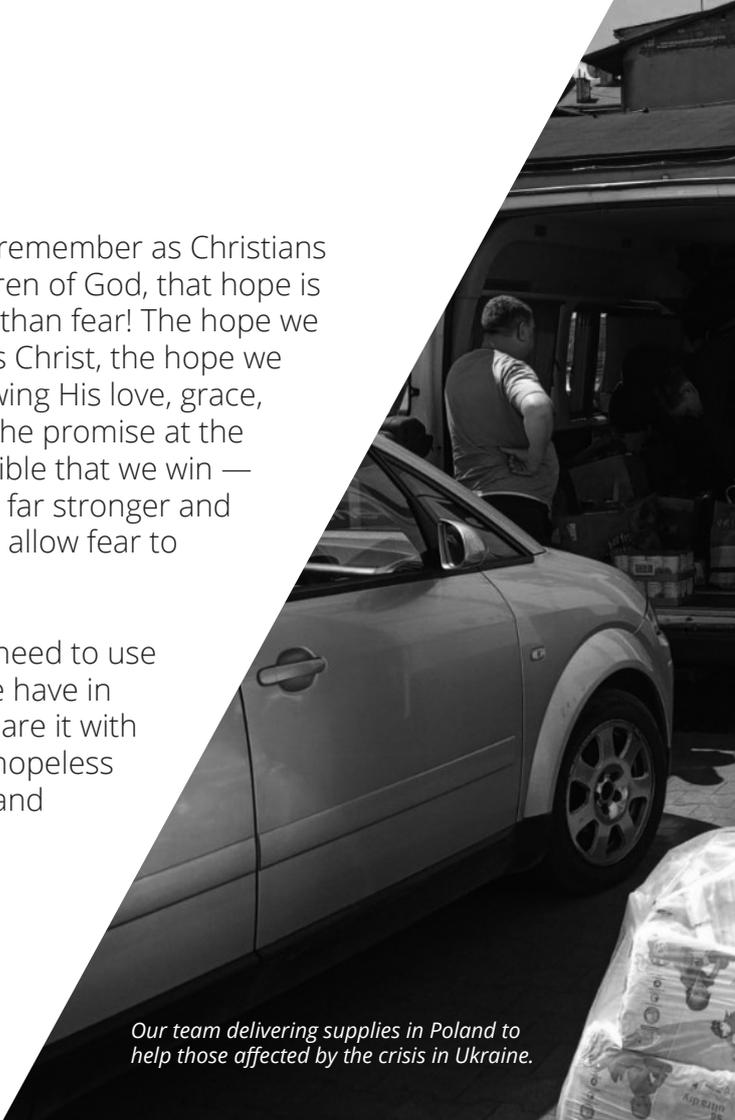
You find out later that laughter and joy are much stronger components for energy and making children laugh provides far more power than screams and fear do.

I felt God speak to us about our current society. It feels like the media, and so many people around us, are just putting out fear which the community is in turn feeding on.

We need to remember as Christians and as children of God, that hope is far stronger than fear! The hope we have in Jesus Christ, the hope we have in knowing His love, grace, mercy, and the promise at the end of the Bible that we win — that hope, is far stronger and we must not allow fear to dominate.

Instead, we need to use this hope we have in Jesus and share it with a very, very hopeless community and society."

*January 2023*



*Our team delivering supplies in Poland to help those affected by the crisis in Ukraine.*



# THANK YOU

IN LAST YEAR'S VISION OFFERING  
WE RAISED OVER: **£100,000**

This enabled us to...



Develop our Re-Track ministry helping the most vulnerable in our society



Fund two church plants in the Middle East



Create a seed fund for our new location in Blunham



Relaunch our Friday Night Meeting outreach



Replace the flat roof on the offices



Give £20,000 to the King's Arms Project serving the homeless and displaced in the town

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE!**

# PLAYING YOUR PART

To commit to everything we have covered in this booklet requires the generosity of God's people.

We have reasons to be grateful. King's Arms Facilities\* have made a surplus and covered the majority of the running costs of King's House and over the last year, we've managed to maintain our trustee-required three months reserves for a charity our size. We're thanking God for these things and we so appreciate the contributions we've received.

That said, we are facing some significant financial pressures. Whilst statistically we have more individual givers than ever, last year the total received was much less than projected. So even with limiting spending, the church still ran at a deficit of £109,000. Manageable for one year but not sustainable going forward.

Therefore, along with the cost of living and inflationary increases, we are needing to raise £93,000 in order to simply continue to do most of what we've been doing in 2022.

However, in order to do the things that we believe He has put on our hearts, **we will be asking God, for...**



This would support the launch of our Blunham location, add finance to the Care Fund\*\*, increase support for missionary work internationally and add further solar panels on the King's House roof among other things. We would also love to give £10,000 towards emergency relief to our friends in Turkey and Syria.

We know God is able to provide everything we need - let's ask Him!

# HOW EVERY POUND IS SPENT:

We want to be responsible with the finances that God gives us. Here is a breakdown of how every pound is spent.



Recently, we were so encouraged to find a note placed in a vision offering in 2006. In it, the giver wrote that God prompted them to pledge an amount of £2010 because 2010 was going to be a significant year. They gave in faith and unbeknownst to them, 2010 was the year King's Arms Church moved into King's House! What a great example of giving prophetically!

## GOVERNANCE

(Finance, Legal, HR, Office & Oversight)

£0.22

## NEXT GEN

(King's Kids & Youth)

£0.15

## SEND

(Translocal & International Mission)

£0.05

## PASTORAL

£0.09

## COMMUNITY

(GroupLife & Safeguarding)

£0.09

## IMPACT

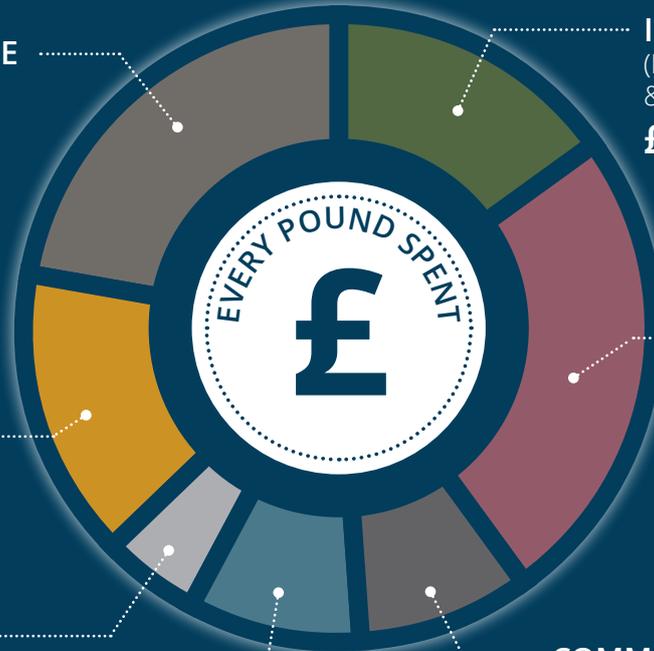
(Evangelism, Prayer & Communication)

£0.15

## CONNECT

(Sundays & Events)

£0.25





Martin Luther

PRAYER IS NOT OVERCOMING  
GOD'S RELUCTANCE, BUT LAYING  
HOLD OF HIS WILLINGNESS.



# PLAYING YOUR PART IN PRAYER

Martin Luther says, ***“Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness.”*** We would love to invite you to join us in prayer, no matter what background, circumstance, or phase of life you are in.

- 1 Pray that our love and passion for worship and connection with God flourishes in this season
- 2 Pray for genuine friendships, authentic relationships and healthy groups to be established and grow across our church community
- 3 Pray for the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His harvest field and for disciples to be made
- 4 Pray for us collectively to be ‘good news’ to the poor; loving and reaching out to those in need around us
- 5 Pray for our children and young people to be surrounded by Godly men and women, secure in their identity and established in love to do all they are called to do
- 6 Pray for us to be a generous people, in word and in deed, as God provides for all He wants to do this year

As you pray if you receive any prophetic words that may help us as we move forward this year, please email them through to [prophetic@kingsarms.org](mailto:prophetic@kingsarms.org).

# HOW CAN I GIVE?

## WHERE DO I START?

### IF YOU'RE NOT GIVING REGULARLY

Perhaps you're new and have never got around to setting up regular giving? Perhaps circumstances have previously prevented you from financially contributing to church life but this could be the time to start?

If you're not giving regularly to King's Arms, would you consider committing to give **£30 each month** to partner with us?

If 300 people were to start or increase their giving by just £30 per month, we would raise £108,000 in a year; over half of the money we need.



= £108,000

# GROWING IN GENEROSITY

## IF YOU'RE GIVING REGULARLY BUT NOT TITHING

The biblical foundation for giving for God's people throughout history is the 'tithe'. This represents the first ten percent of your income given to God, for the support of His work, as a sign that you believe that He is your source of wealth and life itself. God's people were even told that if they 'tested' God by giving it, then He would amaze them with what He would do. We now no longer live under God's old covenant (or agreement) with His people but His new covenant, through Christ. What this means is that each one of us is free to decide to give in response to what Christ has done for us. As we do this, God in turn promises to provide for our needs (2 Corinthians 9:7-11).

Do we then have to tithe as followers of Jesus? Clearly not, we are under a new covenant. It's actually a far better covenant than the old one. However, this question should provoke us; should those who follow Jesus, under the new covenant, give less than those who lived before?

Jesus spoke about money far more than any other single subject. Our *"heart is where our treasure is"* (Matthew 6:21) and if we are serious about following Jesus then the tithe is just the entry point to a life of radical generosity; trusting and knowing that the *"Father knows what you need"* (Matthew 6:8).

# RADICAL GENEROSITY

## IF YOU'RE ALREADY TITHING, WHAT ABOUT RADICAL GENEROSITY?

As we go deeper in our walk with Jesus we realise that He didn't just give out of duty but because He **loved** the church to the point that He gave Himself up for her.

Romans 8:32 says,

**"HE WHO DID NOT SPARE HIS OWN SON, BUT GAVE HIM UP FOR US ALL - HOW WILL HE NOT ALSO GRACIOUSLY GIVE US ALL THINGS?"**

These truths show us that to follow Jesus doesn't just mean dutiful giving but to follow Him into a life of radical generosity. What does that look like for you? What is He saying to you and what do you think you should do about it?

## FAQS

### **Is this offering to be given on the day or can I give in the future?**

We are hoping to raise the money through a combination of one-off gifts given during the Vision Sundays and ongoing monthly giving across the year. If you would like to give a one-off gift but don't have the money right now then you can pledge an amount and indicate when in the future you would like to give on the giving envelope. This will help with our budgeting.

### **What happens if I cannot keep giving a regular gift?**

We don't believe that it's right to give under compulsion so everyone is free to stop giving at any time.

# WAYS TO GIVE

## Can I see a detailed plan of the church and building finances?

Yes, absolutely. We run all of our accounts with transparency so anyone is free to see a detailed view of our church and building finances at anytime. Contact [rob.brown@kingsarms.org](mailto:rob.brown@kingsarms.org).

## Who can I talk to about other questions?

We would love to hear from anyone who has further questions about the finances or the vision of the King's Arms. Please feel free to email any questions to [simonh@kingsarms.org](mailto:simonh@kingsarms.org).



### ONLINE:

[KINGSARMS.ORG/GIVE](https://KINGSARMS.ORG/GIVE)

Select 'Vision Offering 2023' Fund



### BANK TRANSFER:

King's Arms Trust (Bedford)

Sort Code: 60-83-01 A/C No: 20222499



### CHEQUE:

Payable to 'King's Arms Trust (Bedford)'



### CASH:

Please use a giving envelope and fill in all the details



### CARD:

Please use the card machine available at the Vision Stand

[KINGSARMS.ORG/GIVE](https://KINGSARMS.ORG/GIVE)



[KINGSARMS.ORG/VISION](https://KINGSARMS.ORG/VISION)