The Barty **Hardship** Scheme – Offering Hope in Times of Need

Dear Friends,

I’m writing to share an important and exciting new initiative in our church: The Barty Hardship Scheme – is an emergency support fund designed to offer practical help to people facing short-term financial hardship.

This scheme is inspired by the story of Bartimaeus, the blind man who sat by the roadside and cried out to Jesus, *“Son of David, have mercy on me!”* (Mark 10:47). Jesus didn’t ignore him. He stopped, called him near, and asked the simple but profound question:
*“What do you want me to do for you?”*

It’s this moment – full of compassion, dignity, and divine attention – that lies at the heart of the Barty hardship Scheme. It invites us, as the Body of Christ, to hear the cries of those around us and to respond not with judgement or distance, but with love, generosity, and practical care.

As a church, our vision is clear: to love Jesus, one another, and our community. And one of our core values is transforming hospitality – offering welcome and care that reflects God’s heart and changes lives. The Barty Scheme is a way we live that vision out.

This emergency support fund will be overseen by the Vicar and Churchwardens, and used to assist people in urgent financial need. It could mean helping someone who’s facing homelessness find safe shelter for a few nights. It might support a local family struggling to pay a utility bill or put food on the table. It could provide travel for someone attending medical appointments, to support counselling for mental health issues, or perhaps temporary help during an unexpected crisis.

We know these needs exist – not just ‘out there’, but among us and around us. And when someone reaches out and says, in their own way, *“Can you help me?”* – we want to be a church that says yes.

We’re inviting everyone in our church family to consider giving to the Barty Scheme – either through a one-time donation or by including it in your regular giving. It is a practical way to be part of something deeply spiritual: helping carry one another’s burdens and sharing the love of Christ in action.

This is not charity at a distance – it is hospitality that transforms. It is the church being the church.

Jesus met Bartimaeus’ cry not with a lecture or delay, but with presence and power. Let us do the same. Let us be a people who respond with compassion, generosity, and courage when others fall on hard times.

If you would like to give to our hardship Barty fund please contact Linda our treasurer at treasurer@twinspires.org.uk Please join us in praying that the Barty Hardship Scheme will be a real blessing – and a faithful expression of our shared calling.

With love in Christ,
Graeme