# **For the attention of Reedham Parish Council – Outlook Magazine**

Many thanks for the Parish Council’s donations over the past years towards the free distribution of Outlook to all the households in the village.

For the last couple of years, Reedham P.C.C. (that is the church) has made a loss in the region of £500. The costs of producing the magazine continue to rise - paper, ink and so on. We want to preserve our funds to pay for the day to day running of the church and the ongoing maintenance of an ageing building.

The labour of producing 850 copies each month (600 for Reedham and the rest by subscription) is becoming too onerous.

From an environmental viewpoint, we believe that many of the free copies go straight into waste or recycling without being read.  Given our commitment to reduce waste as part of being an ‘Eco Church’ we want to address this.

These facts are driving us to review the production and costs and some changes will be necessary. The Benefice has decided to increase the cost of subscriptions from 25p to 50p a copy, and we are addressing some of the other problems with receiving the full income for the magazine. However, we regret that we cannot continue to distribute free copies to all households in Reedham each month.

What we are proposing is that we continue to print paper copies monthly, but for subscribers only. These will continue to be printed locally for a while, but eventually we will probably move to having the whole magazine printed professionally (our printer is wearing out). We are aware that the general distribution is valued, and we are considering a general free distribution twice a year, probably in June (with Village Show schedule) & December (with Christmas events). These would be professionally printed, would contain information on how to subscribe for monthly paper copies, or to access free digital copies either through the Benefice website, or by a ‘blind’ emailing list.

However, we could only afford this free general distribution with the aid of an increased contribution from the parish council – say £350 p.a. We appreciate that the Parish Council must make proper use of its funds; but we have been told that it values Outlook as a means of communicating with the whole village.

We would be grateful if the Parish Council could consider these proposals and respond.

We are proposing to bring in these changes from the April 2024 edition onwards to give time for the changes to be publicised and a structure for collecting subscriptions put in place.

Again, many thanks for the P.C.’s contributions,

Kati Cowen, Nicholas Cowen, Jonathan Lonsdale and Charlotte Lonsdale.