

APCM Finance 20th February 2018

The financial agenda for 2017 was very challenging for the finance team. The desire to expand our youth work, continue with Alpha courses and refurbish the church centre resulted in the need for a Gift Day in April to raise the required funds. We already had 35K from a legacy received in 2017 to give us a start and we ended up with £104k. After the sums required for Alpha and the youth worker were transferred to the appropriate accounts this left us with £97k for the church centre refurbishment, which came in on budget and at almost exactly this amount, so praise God for his provision.

As a result of spending all this money on the church centre, which is an asset, the bottom line of our balance sheet (the total value of the assets of the PCC) has increased by nearly £70k.

Although general unrestricted income was 4% lower in 2017 than the previous year, this was mainly due to a couple of exceptional income items in 2016.

During the course of the year, six standing orders were cancelled or decreased, 21 new standing orders were received and 12 existing standing orders were increased.

So our regular giving showed an upward trend through the year.

As usual we were able to gift a 10% tithe of our general income, some £25k, to various home and overseas mission and social charities.

On the expenditure front one of the largest items is Parish Share, just over £69k. The only church in the deanery that has a higher parish share than Cogges is the Witney Team Ministry which consists of four church's, so as an individual church Cogges has by far the highest Parish Share in the deanery. However, this is the money that we pay to the diocese to cover Simon's salary, housing costs and pension, and Rich's salary and pension. Plus some of it is used by the diocese to cover training and support for the wider church community, so it represents reasonable value for money.

Although the value of the church on the balance sheet increased we had a general unrestricted fund deficit of £22k which halved our cash reserves and means that we have to work hard this year to try and restores our reserves to meet our reserves policy.

Another area that has been slowly creeping up on us has been the requirement to spend money to comply with various items of legislation. Music and other copy write licences had been with us for many years, but more recently fire extinguisher and alarm servicing, PAT testing of all electrical appliances and now waste disposal/cleaning to keep the new toilets in line with public hygiene requirements are all adding to the annual cost. The more we grow as a church the larger these costs become.

In summary, the PCC invested a large amount of money in the church in 2017 which resulted in a significant general fund deficit, but we still have sufficient cash funds available to meet the 'going concern' criteria that the charity commission are introducing for larger charities. The finance committee reviews income and expenditure on a monthly basis to keep an oversight of the financial status of the church.

Finally, I would like to thank Jen Osman who does all the banking of the plate collections and for her work as Gift Aid Secretary.