

Treasurers Report 2021 Accounts for the 2022 APCM

Accounts: The formal Annual Report and Accounts for 2021 were issued for PCC approval on 17 March 2022, they cover the Church Financial year, which runs from January to December 2021. These additional notes concentrate on the supplementary pages 10 - 12 of the Annual Accounts, which relate to St.Martins funds. They should be read in conjunction with pages 6 & 7 of the Annual Report. The formal Accounts incorporate the finances of Well Hill and The Toddler Group.

People: My thanks continue to be extended to Jim Rooke for processing the Gift Aid claims and to our sidesmen / Service Stewards for counting the collections each week. The PCC were pleased to appoint Di Lewis, who has generously offered her services, as our Independent Examiner, (I.E.) again this year.

On line Transactions: The majority of our financial transactions are now carried out on line. Although we have a static collecting bowl and a contactless donation facility for one off donations, cash collections during services have yet to be resumed due to Covid. Since November 2021 we have been charged a fee for processing cash and cheque transactions. Fortunately over 95% of our regular transactions are now conducted by Bank Transfers. We also continued with our 'one off' on line donations linked to our social media platforms and contactless donation facilities when our church was in use, these also attract a small transaction charge.

Budget: The PCC set a budget each year, for the following year, at the November PCC meeting. Our budget is based upon trends from previous years, forecasts of future trends plus planned initiatives. Budget Results and the Annual deficit are discussed in the Annual Report page 6 para.3 of the Financial Review. St.Martin's Start of year Budget predicted an end of year deficit of normal income over normal expenditure of £12.7k, the end of year figure was slightly improved at £8.3k.

Income: Ref p10. Our 'Normal' Income (which for this table includes regular restricted income but excludes any special projects) reduced, for the 2nd year running, by 15% to £73.7k, £86.7k in (2020). Very similar to 2020 but without our special appeal which had raised £12k in 2020 but we decided could not be repeated this year. We are particularly fortunate that so many of our regular donations are made by standing order and their increased donations were maintained this year. Thank you to all who have continued with and increased their financial support.

Giving: During 2021 the number of regular (planned) givers reduced by 2 to 45. In total more than 90% of the regular giving (excluding Charity Trust) was Gift Aided (GA) to St.Martin's which gives us an extra 25p in the £1. The 'one off' Blue Gift Aid envelopes and the GASDS schemes gaining income from in church cash service collections continued to be reduced to under £600 due to Covid restrictions.

Dividends and Interest: Following the trend of the previous 11 years, National Interest rates remained low for the whole year. The lowest returns we have had for over 15 years.

Expenditure: Ref: page 10, other than the Church Restoration expenditure for the replacement boiler, funded from restricted reserves, overall expenditure remained significantly similar to 2020. Several items of planned building and churchyard works continued to be postponed to a later year.

Parish Pledge/Share: Continues to remain our major expenditure item. In the budget review of November 2020 the PCC voted to further slightly reduce the amount of Parish Pledge to be offered during 2021 but to fully cover the cost of a full time priest (even with the reduction in payments, you will see from page 10 that this now represents 62% of our normal expenditure).

Restoration and Quinquennial Works. There were no major works carried out during 2021. The costed report from the Quinquennial Inspection of 2021 were not received during the year. It is hoped to produce final costed proposals for the Church Spire re-shingling works, held over for 3 years, early in 2022.

Charitable Giving: Ref page 12. During 2021 the PCC reluctantly voted not to allocate general funds to top up our charitable giving for the year to the target 10% of normal unrestricted giving. At the end of year we were only £60 short of that target with direct and 3rd party facilitated donations of £6,031 – quite an achievement. The number of charities supported slightly reduced but Christian Aid continued to be our main supported charity.

Funds and Reserves: Page 11 shows the composition of St.Martin's Funds together with a pillar graph showing our fund holding for the past 6 years. In 2021, 27% of our 'normal' expenditure came from our unrestricted reserves. Our unrestricted reserves of £47,487 are now the lowest they have been since 2014 falling from 84% of our normal unrestricted annual expenditure in 2020 to 57% in 2021 ie: our unrestricted funds would only keep us running for 7 months if all income ceased!

The Church Repair (Fund)/Account (CRF) are 'designated' funds held on deposit by the Diocese primarily for Quinquennial and major church maintenance works, this fund is credited from our general funds by £4,300 each year. By the end of 2021 we had three restricted funds, the Restoration Fund of £60,930 (for church repairs). A Churchyard Maintenance fund of £44,474 including burial donations showing an increase of £10.4k, (*this must be kept high to meet the long term maintenance demands, it also includes donations towards the Churchyard wall repairs.*). A Church Spire Fund of £10.3 unchanged from 2020.

Bank Accounts: Our Bankers continued to be HSBC. Unfortunately, in September 2021 our local Orpington Branch closed their counter services so cash deposits and cheque deposits now require us to travel to Sidcup or use Post Counter Services. Along with many 'high street' banks, from November 2021, HSBC ceased to provide 'free banking' for charities. The PCC may need to review our Banking services during 2022.

Barry Foale Hon Treasurer