

Financial Review

Overview

In 2020, the PCC's total income and expenditure from normal activities was:

Income	£128,450
Expenditure	£134,814

As a consequence, the PCC incurred a deficit of (£6,364) in the year.

The PCC can meet its legal liabilities when they are due; the PCC's aim is to maintain a reserve of Unrestricted Funds of approximately £30,000 to cover emergency situations, equivalent to approximately three month's normal operating costs at current levels.

Unrestricted Funds

At the end of 2020, the PCC's balance of unrestricted funds was £40,655.

Unrestricted Income

In 2020, the PCC had three principal sources of income: Voluntary Giving; Gift Aid; and Lettings.

Voluntary Giving – the PCC received £101,642 in voluntary donations, of which £79,568 was Planned Giving.

Gift Aid – the PCC received an additional £19,286 in tax recovered in the form of Gift Aid.

Lettings – the PCC received £2,375 in rent from lettings of St Matthew's Church and Church Hall, the principal users being: Bath Operatic and Drama Society and Beats Dance. The Covid-19 restrictions in place for the majority of 2020 significantly reduced the lettings income received.

Interest on Investments

The PCC has three interest-bearing investments: the Church Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) fund, Nat West Deposit Account and Current Account interest. Together these investments delivered £180.

Payments

The major payments from Unrestricted Funds fall into five categories: Administration and Office Costs; St Thomas à Becket's Operating Costs; St Matthew's Operating Costs; Charitable Donations; and Parish Share. Operating Costs are made up of four sub-categories: Utilities (gas, electricity and water); Insurance; Maintenance and Repair; and Cleaning.

Administration came to £22,172 including payment to our part-time administrators and costs associated with running the Church office.

St Thomas à Becket Operating Costs – in 2020 were £2,530 – all from Unrestricted Funds.

St Matthew's Operating Costs – in 2020 were £20,849 – all from Unrestricted Funds.

Charitable Donations – the PCC donated from Unrestricted Funds £3,296 to various charitable organisations and other causes, including: the Bath Soup Run, the Haven Home in Sri Lanka, Papyrus, and Mercy in Action.

Parish Share – the 2020 Parish Share of £66,745 was paid in full and has now been paid in full for nine consecutive years.

Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds relate to those donations that are given to the PCC with a restriction imposed upon the purpose for which the funds can be used.

At the start of 2020, the PCC held five Restricted Funds, although a sixth Fund was set up during the year:

St Thomas à Becket Restoration Fund - £19,801. This Fund started the year at £19,621. It is PCC policy, agreed in 2007, to maintain a reserve of approximately £20,000 for restoration work on St Thomas' church in a restricted fund.

Organ Fund - £2,520. This Fund is comprised of £1,841 for the sole purpose of the maintenance and repair to the organ at St Matthew's and £679 representing the surplus after the purchase of the new organ at St Thomas' in 2017.

Widcombe United Charities - £2,926. The Vicar and Churchwardens of St Thomas à Becket Church and the Chapelwardens of St Matthew's Church are trustees of a separate charity, the Widcombe United Charities, which is a consolidation of a number of historic endowment charities dating back to the 19th Century for the relief of poverty of the elderly of the parish. Towards the end of 2020 the PCC sought permission from the Charities Commission to absorb this Fund within Widcombe PCC charity, with the ultimate objective of facilitating the distribution of the funds to local families enduring financial hardship.

Missionary Fund - £0. This Fund covers any anonymous gifts made to the PCC with instructions to make payments towards specific individuals or causes. The Fund received gifts totalling £1,435 in 2020 and payments of £1,435 were made to our mission partners in Sri Lanka.

St Matthew's Church Regeneration Fund - £0. This Fund is restricted to expenditure for the regeneration of the St Mathew's church building, including any substantive work the church roof. At the start of the year, the Fund held £3,867. During 2020, the Fund received gifts totalling £15,956 and made payments of £19,823 towards the development and refurbishment of the North Wing, known as The Keep, together with

professional fees relating to the future re-ordering project. The total expenditure incurred was such that this Fund was exhausted by the year-end.

Haven Home – Sri Lanka Fund - £787. This new Fund is restricted to making gifts to the Haven Home in Kandy, Sri Lanka to support the work of caring for approximately 20 girls who are either orphaned or rejected by their families. During the year the Fund received gifts from church family members of £1,675 of which £888 was distributed.

Plans for the Future

The measures introduced by the government to combat the Covid-19 pandemic have had a significant impact on the life of the church family in 2020, and this has continued into 2021. Despite the gift of being able to join together remotely throughout this period, we are excited by the prospect of once again meeting face to face.

We have taken the opportunity during 'lockdown' to carry out works on the roof of St Matthew's to further protect the building from the ingress of water. This project, which has cost approximately £44,000 (excluding VAT), has been funded partly through grants and partly through the generosity of the church family, for which we are grateful.

The gradual 'unlocking' brought about by the success of the vaccination rollout will lead us to revisit the plans for the further development of St Matthew's church building. Pursuing this will demand a significant financial undertaking for which we will need to prayerfully seek God's guidance and provision.

We give thanks as we see God continuing to bless, encourage and resource the wider Widcombe Parish through our two remarkable buildings and through our church family.