

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21)

The Listening Post at 100!

Back in early 2016 The Listening Post was launched by our Vicar, Andy Cain. Its format was two sided A4 and it gave a taste of the features we have come to expect. Linda Charlton edited it until January 2019, when Theresa took over.

We used to run off enough copies for everyone in church, but this was drastically reduced during the pandemic and it has been assumed that most people are now content to read it online. A small number of hard copies are available in church and we also hand them out at the Toddler Group.



St Mary's Finances Updated

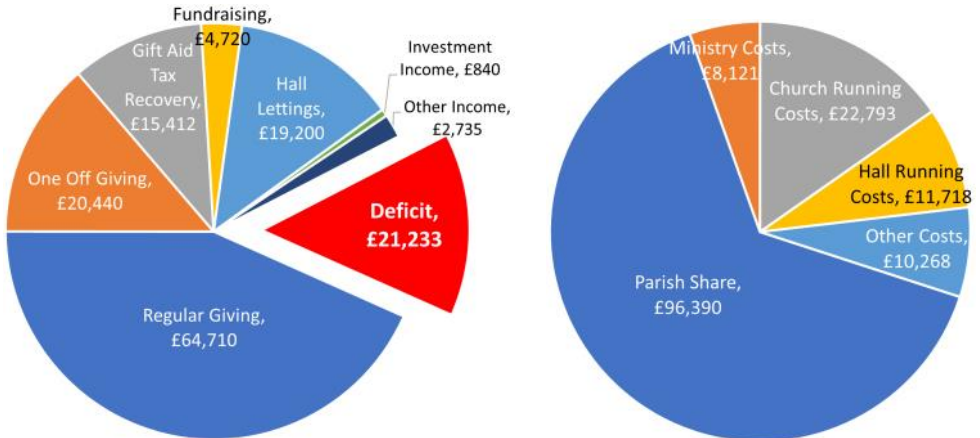
You will recall at our APCM on 12th May we looked at the financial position of the Church for last year. As we are now nearly halfway through 2024, I thought it will be helpful to bring you up to date with the latest position.

At the meeting a question was raised regarding the budget and how that was set. Each year (normally in December) I provide the PCC with what I think will happen for the following year, based upon any changes to income and expenditure that I am aware of, any special one-off items (such as capital works) that are anticipated, and factors that may bring about change such as the rate of inflation. The budget is formally considered at the January meeting of the PCC where it is approved as it is presented or amended as appropriate.

2024 Budget

You will recall at the APCM that I identified the General Fund as the vehicle through which nearly all unrestricted income and expenditure passes. The exception is interest earned in the Bequests and Donations Fund. It is for this reason that the budget only covers the General Fund. The budget is broken down into various headings for income and expenditure on a monthly basis and actual results against the budget are provided to the PCC each month to monitor progress and to identify major deviations from the budget so that they can be addressed.

Budgeted Annual Income and Expenditure



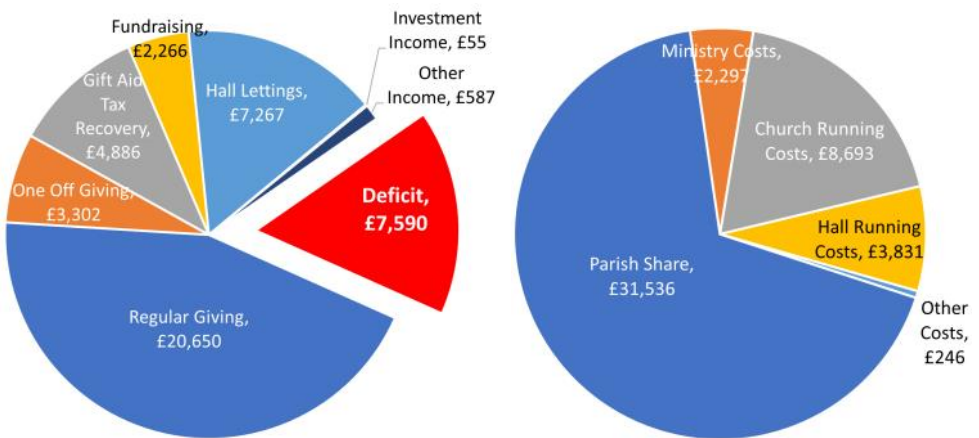
You will see that the budget expects us to have a deficit of £21,233 in 2024. This is clearly unsustainable in the long term, and we will be working hard to mitigate this as much as we can.



Actual Results to the end of April 2024 (4 months)

The PCC were provided accounts in early May for the year up to the end of April. The deficit at £7,590 was £3,697 below the budgeted deficit for the period. Although an improvement on the budget it remains a concern that we are in deficit. The main reason for the reduced deficit was the higher than budgeted income. This came from two sources, higher income from hall lettings and a number of unbudgeted donations. Costs were broadly on budget. I have mentioned before that the fixed nature of a large part of our expenditure makes it difficult to effect large savings, although every effort is made to control the elements of the expenditure that are discretionary.

Jan to April Actual Income and Expenditure



Finally, you will see that the vast majority of our income comes from planned giving (with associated gift aid tax), hall lettings and fundraising. I would like to thank all of you in the planned giving schemes for your continued support and also the Social and Fundraising Committee for all their efforts. I would also like to thank the large band of volunteers who undertake a variety of functions. Without them our costs would be much higher.

God Bless

David Eames

June Services and Events

Sunday 2	08.00	Holy Communion (BCP)
	09.30	Sung Communion
Sunday 9	09.30	Sung Communion & Children's Groups
Monday 10	19.30	Knit & Natter Group in the Leverton Room
Saturday 15	10.00	Women's Group in the Cuddington Hall
	10.30	Big Day Out in Shadbolt Park
Sunday 16	09.30	Sung Communion
Wednesday 19	20.00	PCC meeting in the Cuddington Hall
Thursday 20	14.30	Afternoon Club in the Cuddington Hall
Saturday 22	15.00	Midsummer Tea Party in Church Garden
	19.30	Scout & Guide Band Concert in Church
Sunday 23	09.30	Sung Communion & Children's Groups
Sunday 30	09.30	Sung Communion

Morning Prayer is said in church every weekday morning at 9am

Everyone is very welcome

