

Treasurer's report

Colin Bird

At the APCM I reported on the outcome for 2006, which was good overall and the prognosis for 2007 which is for a tougher year given high utility prices, despite being somewhat featherbedded by a reduced Diocesan Contribution during the vacancy.

Outcome for 2006

Our income in 2006 rose 3.5% over the previous year to £77,752. The main items were:-

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| Planned giving | 38,605 |
| Donations | 10,201 |
| Income tax reclaimed | 10,861 |
| Baptisms, weddings and funerals | 4,884 |
| Magazine | 579 |
| Church Fayre | 2,836 |
| Soundbites contribution | 2,500 |
| Church hires | 2,393 |
| Other events | 1,781 |
| Dividends/Interest and sundry items | 1,156 |
| Money raised for missions and charities | <u>1,956</u> |
| Total income | <u>£77,752</u> |

We spent £77,686, so overall we had a small surplus of £66. Our main costs were:-

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| Clergy expenses (including visiting priests) | 1,759 |
| Heating and lighting | 10,531 |
| Less: Cull Fund income and donations | (2,466) |
| Insurance | 4,870 |
| Services requisites | 1,261 |
| Organists, choir pay and music | 8,398 |
| Diocesan Contribution | 48,743 |
| Administration, copying and sundry items | 2,634 |
| Distributed to charities | <u>1,956</u> |
| Total expenditure | <u>£77,686</u> |

On the Restoration and Music front, the Fabric Fund ended at £21,486, having met the repair needs of only £3,007 – a light year for repairs. The Music Development Fund ended the year at £4,723, having met the cost of scholarships totalling £2,950 and making a contribution to church general costs of £2,500. The Organ Fund had £3,619 at the year end.

So overall, we did well in 2006 – partly because giving was up and partly because the Diocesan Contribution went down for the 4th quarter because of the vacancy, which helped us weather a doubling of utility bills paid in the year.

Prognosis for 2007

I knew this was going to be tougher when our first gas bill arrived in March and was for £5,000! On the positive side (financially) our Diocesan Contribution is running at £41,000 pa whilst we have a vacancy compared to £53,000 when we get a new vicar. I must be the only person who doesn't mind the vacancy going on! This means that the PCC could go for a break even budget for 2007, which it has!

Since the budget was set I have the results of the first quarter, and we are £1,156 behind the budget. Looking at the remaining 9 months we need to put in £37,000, about 9% more than the equivalent for 2006. This is an attainable goal if we all respond according to our abilities.

I think the biggest challenge, however, is to handle the increase in Diocesan Contribution which will kick in when a new vicar arrives. Finding an extra £12,000 a year is going to be a big challenge – one that we would have faced now, but for the vacancy, and which we can expect to have to face within the next 6-9 months. We will need to dig deeper still if we are to maintain our hard earned reputation for good financial stewardship.

All Saints Alive

We all know that prices in the shops go up all the time and that if we want something we have to pay the going rate. The Church also has to face ever increasing costs (not the least of which is paying the pensions of our retired clergy – like Bill Kemm - and I'm sure none of us would like to see those who have served our churches for many years being denied a pension which keeps in line with inflation).

I therefore urge you all seriously to consider how much you are able to increase your giving at this time to enable God's word to be made available to His people in our church of All Saints.



Harvest Festival of Music and Flowers

Plans for the Festival in September (21st -23rd) are now under way and there will be lots of opportunities for people to help over the coming months.

The basic plan is as follows:

Flowers As for the normal Harvest Festival with much more! There will be opportunities to sponsor arrangements in memory of

someone, to celebrate something or just because you feel like it and information is available at the back of the church, and please feel free to take some copies and help us get sponsorship. We will also be approaching local business and other Churches etc.

Music Ideas for the music include a "Soundbites Extra" on the Friday, with concerts on the Friday and Saturday evenings, some short organ recitals during Saturday and other musical Interludes in between times. There will be normal services on Sunday with a Festival Evensong.

Catering Assistance will be required for the various catering requirements – Soundbites lunch, ongoing refreshments and evening drinks & nibbles etc

Prize Draw This will be take place at the Festival this year and good prizes are needed to make this interesting and appealing. Janet and Colin Bird have agreed to organise this so please contact them if you have any bright ideas! We need to sort the Draw out soon as we plan to start selling tickets in July because of the holiday period.

Other Attractions These will include an Art display in the Memorial Chapel, a couple of stalls in the Meeting Room – e.g. Ashiana and cakes/produce, and possibly external craft stalls in the Hall paying for space.

It is a different and exciting project for All Saints but I have every confidence that we can pull together to have a profitable and enjoyable weekend where we welcome lots of visitors to All Saints.

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Mothers Union



The meeting scheduled for May 23rd has been cancelled to allow interviews to take place.

Please note that the Deanery Coffee Morning will now take place on June 26th. More details next month.