

Finances 2011

Colin Bird

When Jo sent up a rallying cry last October, we were in danger of running a deficit for 2011 in excess of £6,000 – nearly 20% of our free reserves! We clearly had to do something – well we did a lot of things and thanks to everyone we ended the year only £1,529 in the red! This is made up of a surplus on general account of £1,189 and a deficit on Restricted Funds of £2,718.

On our general account, giving increased in the last quarter of 2011 by £4,000 over our expectations.

This was a tremendous response to Jo's call for one off donations. The Social Committee geared up the events in the last quarter, in particular massively increasing the scale of the Christmas bazaar and pulled in an extra £2,000. In addition St John's Hall produced £500 more, the Music Fund contributed by increasing the costs contribution from Soundbites to reflect the increased utility costs that hit us throughout 2011 and taking on the training costs of our choir and there were one or two other one off items that further contributed to the successful last quarter, including a high number of services including weddings in December.

Of course heating the church cost even more than expected (£10,600 in 2011) so it was not all good news. Our General reserves stand at £37,357.

On the Restricted Funds side, the MDF had a (planned) deficit of £2,105 but still has £17,119 after a good year of fundraising, primarily through Soundbites. The Fabric Fund had a deficit of £1,791, mainly through repairs to the electrics in the church and stands at £21,164. Once again we got away with no major repair work having to be done in 2011.

On the plus side the Organ Fund increased by £1,178 to £5,757 which was good news and a trend that will need to continue if we are not to get hit in the future with large bills

which we cannot pay. Total Restricted reserves stand at £44,040.

So overall we're in good shape.

What about 2012?

Well, we are budgeting for a deficit of £2,767 having looked carefully at the present level of giving and the ability of St John's Hall to continue its financial success into 2012. We expect costs to rise by 4% to a total of £98,587 so we need to raise £100,000 just to stand still and substantially more to fund growth – but that is a strategic question well beyond the scope of this report!

Stewardship and Talents Campaign

Thank you very much indeed to everyone who responded so generously to our recent campaign. We have so far received an additional £7500 for the coming year through planned giving and donations, which equates to approximately £9400 with gift aid.

We had a number of talent forms returned. The help offered included, welcoming and hospitality, visiting the elderly, working with children, reading lessons and leading prayers, fundraising, catering, cleaning the church, mending hymn books and delivering magazines.

Your support through giving and talents will make a difference. It will enable us to invest in new and existing areas of the ministry in All Saints Church and to extend our outreach to the community.

Thank you for your continued support which is very much appreciated.

Malcolm & Judy Oughton