

On the money

Colin Bird

A big thank you to all who donated to the appeal for conservation work on the Reredos. With Gift Aid the total given came to just short of £7,000 which, together with a hoped-for grant from the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme to cover VAT, should cover the total cost.

We have received a Faculty (i.e. formal permission from the Diocesan Chancellor) and the work should be carried out early in the New Year.

We are awaiting formal tenders for the required repair work on the Vestry roof. We have spent £2,000 on temporary repairs and professional fees and have insurance of £7,000, so if the tenders and fees for the permanent repairs come to more than £5,000, we will have to take any excess out of the Fabric Fund. (*Good News – one of the tenders is under this number – Ed*)

We expect the Fabric Fund to be down to well below £10,000 by the time these two jobs are done – not a lot for a church of our size!

To make matters worse, we know that the bells need attention, including Inspection and where necessary replacement of bearings, refurbishment of pulleys and clappers and the provision of a flapping board for the 5th bell.

The Bell Captain, Alastair Stracey has obtained indicative quotes for the work he recommends be done and about £25,000 will need to be found.

The bellringers appreciate that we do not have the resources to fund this work and will be taking the lead on fundraising for this, including amongst the bellringing community. The PCC will need to consider what financial help can be given to this project when the outcome for 2018 is known.

At the end of September our general reserves stood at £25,000, having declined over the year so far by around £10,000. This is worse than the £7,000 deficit we budgeted for.

The story so far is one of good cost control not making up for the giving total not coming up to expectations. In 2016 we lost £10,000. Last year we pleaded in October for money to balance the books and made it, but this year we are likely to lose another £10,000.

We really do have to look at radical solutions to our funding needs and this is the challenge facing us in 2019.



Christmas Gift to All Saints to beat our deficit?

100 to give £100?

If one hundred people were able to give All Saints one hundred pounds, then we could ensure that we don't go into deficit this year.

Gift envelopes will be in church from Advent Sunday. All gifts, great and small, are most welcome!