

# Ss Alban & Stephen Parish

## Financial Results and Report for the year ended 31 December 2020

With the coronavirus pandemic, 2020 has been an unusual year in all too many respects. I would like to begin this report by recording my thanks to all those who have made it possible for us to continue to function: to Fr Julian and our colleagues on the Parish Team, as well as to our many volunteers: to those who have provided the technical support that has allowed us to stream Masses, to the stewards who have marshalled and sanitised the church and to the members of the 'Re-Opening' Committee, the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Committee and our several strategy groups who have enabled parish life to continue as best it can. Henry Green stepped back at the end of March after many years voluntary work overseeing the administration of the parish finances. My thanks also to those who have taken up the reins in his stead.

The year to 31 December 2020 saw our normal activities and operations severely restricted by the Coronavirus pandemic that resulted in lockdowns for a significant proportion of the year. Mass attendance was greatly reduced while our sacramental programmes and the celebration of both First Communion and Confirmations were significantly curtailed. The Parish Centre remained closed for nine months of the year, with a resultant loss of income and the curtailment of many of the parish activities that would normally have taken place.

We made conscious efforts to reduce expenditure wherever possible and there were savings in certain areas such as catechetical and liturgical expenses. We were encouraged by the Diocese to make use of the Government furlough scheme, which we did, and a loan repayment holiday. However certain costs, such as administrative costs, premises maintenance and our contribution to the Diocese remain unchanged, irrespective of income.

The overall result for the financial year was a small surplus of around £12,400 which, in the circumstances, is a good outcome for the parish. As the pandemic and lockdown continues into 2021 we hope that the steps we have taken to try and increase our offertory standing orders and the number of gift aiders will help soften the continuing impact on our financial position.

A detailed breakdown of income and expenditure for the parish for the year ended 31 December 2020 is set out in the table below, with comparative figures for 2019. Meaningful comparison between 2019 and 2020 is difficult in some areas because of the transfer of the parish from the care of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart to the Diocese of Westminster part way through 2019, and the effects of the pandemic on income and certain expenditure in 2020. However, what is clear is the significant impact of the lockdowns and tier restrictions on our income and the level of parish activity in 2020.

Some points to highlight:

### **Income:**

- Overall assessable income was reduced by £38,400 compared to 2019, a fall of 17%.
- Offertory income was significantly affected by the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, with reduced Church attendance leading to significant falls in envelope and loose plate income.
- This decrease was offset by a number of parishioners setting up offertory standing orders and completing gift aid declarations and also by the successful introduction of contactless and Virgin Money Giving.
- Other income was also affected by the pandemic. Having to close the Parish Centre for much of the year and cancel the majority of our social activities reduced income in both of those areas.

### **Expenditure:**

- Overall expenditure was reduced by £143,600, a decrease of 37%.

- Non clergy salary costs in 2020 are lower as we have not yet recruited a replacement for Sr Anita. The increase in clergy salaries reflects Fr Michael and Fr Julian being in post for a full year. Arrangements for the remuneration of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, who served the parish until the end of August 2020, were different to those for Diocesan Clergy.
- Decreased expenditure in certain areas such as catechetics, liturgical, Parish Centre, office and admin are a result of coronavirus restrictions on our operations.
- Expenditure relating to the purchases of fixed assets in 2020 include the costs of the Sacred Heart Shrine and the purchase of a video streaming system for the Church, whilst expenditure in 2019 mainly related to the purchase of a new boiler. (It should be noted that voluntary donations covered the cost of the new streaming system.)
- Repairs and maintenance expenditure in 2020 included spend of around £25,000 for necessary repairs to the Church Bell Tower and roof, and the Presbytery and Parish Centre roofs, as well as £4,000 for repairs to the block paving in front of the Church. Over £2,000 was spent on Covid cleaning materials and other related costs. Regular health and safety, compliance and waste disposal costs total around £7,000 per annum.

Income			Expenditure		
	2020	2019		2020	2019
Offertories Standing Orders	£98,000	£81,900	Clergy Salaries	£20,400	£7,100
Offertories Envelopes	£16,300	£39,800	Non-clergy Salaries	£45,400	£70,500
Offertories Loose Plate	£34,600	£78,300	Supply priests	£1,400	£1,700
Virgin Money Giving	£6,400	£0	Housekeeping and travel expenses	£5,900	£17,000
Contactless Giving	£3,000	£0	Heat, Light & Water	£11,300	£11,000
Tax Refunds	£27,600	£27,600	Council Tax & Insurance	£3,500	£1,400
General Donations	£3,500	£200	Office and Administration	£5,600	£14,700
<b>Total Assessable Income</b>	<b>£189,400</b>	<b>£227,800</b>	Liturgical Expenses	£6,600	£12,800
Parish Activities	£4,100	£6,800	Parish Activities	£5,900	£10,400
Catechetics	£400	£3,700	Catechetics	£600	£3,900
Repository, Paper & Candles	£3,400	£8,000	Repository, Paper & Candles	£3,400	£4,000
Parish Centre Revenue	£1,500	£8,200	Deanery Expenses	£500	£400
Special Collections	£4,000	£29,400	Special Collections	£4,000	£29,600
Donations received for Specific Purposes	£17,100	£12,000	Donations/Grants made	£3,500	£6,500
Christmas and Easter Offerings	£4,900	£9,300	Loans Repaid	£6,400	£25,700
Stipends and Stole Fees	£20,700	£7,500	Property Repairs and Renewals	£45,800	£36,000
Furlough Grant	£8,800	£0	Purchase of Fixed Assets	£19,000	£78,300
Legacies	£400	£1,000	Contribution to the Diocese	£53,100	£54,900
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>£254,700</b>	<b>£313,700</b>	<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>£242,300</b>	<b>£385,900</b>
<b>(£) Surplus / (Deficit):</b>	<b>£12,400</b>	<b>(£72,200)</b>	<b>(%) Surplus / (Deficit):</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>(23.0%)</b>