

Happy New Year

Life as church treasurer continues regardless of the current pandemic. There are still regular bills including the Parish Share to be paid, staff wages to be processed and fees for funerals to be forwarded to the Diocese. These all need recording along with donations towards our running costs and accounts balanced at the year-end ready for the auditor.

This has now been completed for the year ended December 2020 with the general fund showing a deficit of £10,000. This is the difference between our general income and our regular running expenses and small general maintenance. (Any major expenditure has been made from reserved funds for example the rewire at St Peters.) As we have had tight controls over our expenses over the past years, our cash reserves have been able to cover this loss.

The Parish Share for 2021 has been increased and running costs continue to escalate despite the church wardens keeping a really careful watch over them. All the additional income that helps to keep our buildings open has once again ceased. We have lost our income from hall rentals, fundraising, the collection box for visitor donations at St Paul's and all those small extra donations for refreshments etc. Whilst the churches are closed for public worship, there are no donations on the collection plate, and no easy way for the members of our congregation that regularly donate via the envelope scheme, to deliver their donations to us.

May I take this opportunity to ask you all to consider your regular giving contribution?

How long is it since you have reviewed the amount?

Are you aware of the following three alternative ways that you can support the Parish?

1 The Parish giving scheme (PGS) – it is now possible to 'sign up' by telephone simply call: **0333 002 1271**. One of the PGS administrators will take you through the sign up process – this normally takes around 15 minutes. You will need to have the following information to hand: This is a free service for both you and the Parish.

- Personal bank account details
- The name of the Parish - **Parish of Jarrow and Simonside**
- They will need to confirm if you want to increase you gift in line with inflation each year
- Confirm if you are eligible for Gift Aid
- The PGS code for the parish – **130613120**

2 Standing order from your bank account or a donation by bank transfer

Account name: **Parish of Jarrow and Simonside**

Sort code: **20 80 47**

Account Number **50222623**

3 For a one off donation via the Just Giving Website

<https://www.justgiving.com/parishofjarrow> or follow the link on the home page of the Parish Website.

Best wishes,

Diane (Treasurer)