



# ST PETER'S FINANCIAL TIMES MAY 2022

## The Two Davids

The role that most churches find hardest to fill is, of course, the



David Fisher, Former Treasurer

Treasurer. Being Treasurer is a significant responsibility and one that requires real dedication and particular skills. We are exceptionally fortunate to have had such a strong team managing a very tricky period in the financial life of St Peter's. David Fisher was Treasurer of St Peter's for

more than 30 years before his retirement in October 2020. His faithful service to this church has been of inestimable value and his shoes very difficult to fill. In the period since David Fisher stood down there has been a massive amount of work required to bring stability and direction to this vital aspect of our shared

life. Various people were critical in managing this handover including, most particularly, our new Treasurer, David Hipkin. David has made brilliant progress in mastering the accounts and making them accessible in digitised form. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a competent



David Hipkin, Treasurer

person now in charge. This puts us in a strong position to maintain responsible financial management into the future.

## The Cost of Ministry

The forecast budget for 2022 predicts costs of £359,000 (see back page). More than half of this total, £189,858, is accounted for by our 'Parish Share', almost all of which (93%) goes to pay for local clergy. The stipend, housing, pension and training of a full-time stipendiary priest comes to roughly £54,000.



Alan Garrow, Vicar



Chris Clayton, Curate/Associate Vicar

Up until June 12<sup>th</sup> this year our Parish Share has been calculated on the basis of our having one Vicar (the full cost of which comes out of the Share) and one Curate (the full cost of which is born by the Diocese as a whole). However, once Chris Clayton is licensed as our Associate Vicar (on 12<sup>th</sup> June), our Share is

calculated on the basis of our having *two* full-time priests. This is why the Share has jumped £30K from £159,838 last year – and will increase by a similar amount in 2023. It is exceptionally good news that Chris is able to stay with us as Associate Vicar – but we need to recognise that, from 12<sup>th</sup> June, he is no longer 'free'.

A quick calculation will show you that a Parish Share of £189,858 is a good deal more than the actual costs of two full-time priests. This is because we are part of a network of Church of England churches across the Diocese of Leeds. We are relatively rich in

resources compared with some of our neighbours in Bradford, Wakefield and Leeds. We pay extra to help maintain Christian worship and service in these areas. Without our support, some of these churches could not be able to operate at all.

## **Staff Costs and the Cost of the Building**

There can't be many churches that have such a dedicated and



Carole Raw, Administrator

stable team looking after the building, lettings and administration. Most of the costs of this team have, in the past, been covered by lettings. During the pandemic we received furlough payments but now, as lettings gradually recover, there is a shortfall to be met.

The costs of our musical worship are also remarkably low. John Longstaff, Organist and Director of Music, is an amazing gift to St Peter's as are all the talented musicians and singers, including Jude Williamson, Leader of the Music Group, who give up their time voluntarily to serve our musical worship at 9.30am, 11.00am and 6.30pm week by week.

After the Parish Share our next biggest expenses are associated with the building. As we all know energy bills are rapidly on the rise – putting nearly an extra £20,000 on our predicted outgoings for 2022. Strenuous efforts are being made to cut our energy consumption and we can be sincerely grateful for the care and expertise being applied to this by our Environment Group. Our building, in its prime location, is an invaluable asset but, as you might expect, it costs a good deal to maintain.



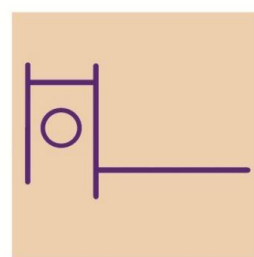
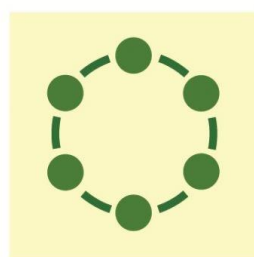
## **Gifts, Grants and Legacies**

The financial story at St Peter's during the Pandemic is opposite to what you might expect. While many other charities and churches have been struggling for funds St Peter's has benefitted from some extraordinary individual acts of generosity. Over the past two years we have received over £400,000 in one-off gifts, legacies and grants. This has meant that, despite a drastic loss of income from lettings, fundraising activities, and plate donations, we have been able to continue paying the bills. This is not, however, a sustainable model – one-off gifts, by definition, don't happen every day. We must, therefore, broaden the base of our regular giving so that the worshipping and serving life of the church can continue to flourish.

## The Parish Giving Scheme

So, how can you help? Regular giving by Standing Order has been essential to the health of our finances over the past two years. We are sincerely grateful to everyone who has continued to give by this means even when they haven't been able to attend worship in person. Giving by Standing Order does, however, have its weaknesses. The problem is two-fold.

First, we tend to give the same amount from one year to the next – which means, over time, the value of our contribution gradually decreases with inflation. Second, Gift Aid applications must be made by hand. The labour involved is worth it – the total value of Gift Aid recovered is about £30,000/year – but



## PARISH GIVING SCHEME

the process is laborious and sometimes we don't receive the recoverable funds for many months. These two problems are solved by the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). It couldn't be simpler to use. A printed step-by-step guide is available on the Welcome Desk and on the church website – and there's a simple summary on the back of this leaflet.

Once you've set up your Direct Debit, the PGS will tell you when your first payment will be taken – so you can cancel your Standing Order, if you have one, before that date. If you're new to St Peter's, and you'd like to support us with regular giving, please do join the PGS.

## **Every contribution is precious**

Not all of us are able to contribute to the church financially. Not all of us are able to sign up for the Parish Giving Scheme or give using Gift Aid. In the current financial climate not all of us are able to increase our giving – some of us will need to reduce it. That is why it is so important that we do what we can do, not what we can't. When we offer what God calls us to offer, no matter how insignificant it may seem, he has a habit of doing amazing things with it. St Peter's, by the grace of God, has continued a remarkable ministry of worship and service every day of the pandemic. He surely has plans for us for the future also – and I am confident that those plans include a place for each of us to offer the gift that only we can give.

If you have questions about your financial giving please be in touch with our Treasurer, David Hipkin, or Churchwarden, Sarah Martin. If you would like to give in other ways, please be in touch with one of the Clergy or Churchwardens.

Thank you for all you contribute to St Peter's. God bless you in the coming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Garrow', written in a cursive style.

Alan Garrow, Vicar

## Income and Expenditure Account - Unrestricted Funds

	<b>Pre-Audit 2021 (£)</b>	<b>Forecast 2022 (£)</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Planned Giving: Gift Aided	101,765	110,000
Planned Giving: Non-Gift Aided	8,330	9,075
Gift Aid Claimed *	33,695	28,500
Gift Aid Envelopes	4,861	4,000
Cash Collections	3,826	3,953
Church Lettings	10,181	10,486
Fund-raising Events	4,865	2,385
Legacies ** Grants and one-off Gifts	153,134	262,747
Other income	7,198	7,413
<b>Total</b>	<b>333,849</b>	<b>438,559</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Diocesan Quota	159,838	189,858
Church Utilities	23,647	42,000
Staff Wages, NI and other	48,784	52,800
Church Repairs ***	12,912	39,785
Building and office costs	19,194	19,505
Choir, Music, Organ, Piano	6,147	6,331
General Expenses	16,204	15,000
Travel	903	1,816
Verger/Technical Support cost	1,023	1,054
Wedding/ Funeral Cost	2,942	3,030
<b>Total</b>	<b>291,594</b>	<b>371,179</b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>	<b>42,255</b>	<b>67,380</b>

\* 2021 Gift Aid includes late / additional 2020 claims

\*\* Timing and conditions of legacies still uncertain

\*\*\* Includes provision for quinquennial inspection items

# GIVE TO YOUR LOCAL PARISH

IN THREE SIMPLE WAYS



## ① GIVE ONLINE

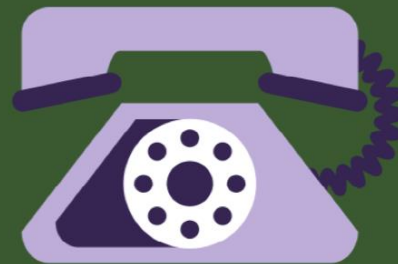
A few quick and easy steps to set-up regular giving on our website:

[www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk)

## ② GIVE BY TELEPHONE

Between Monday and Friday,  
9am - 5pm, you can give to your local  
parish by calling the PGS team on:

**0333 002 1271**



## ③ GIVE BY A GIFT FORM

You can pick up a gift form from your PGS  
parish representative. Simply fill in the details  
and we'll do the rest.



Website: [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk)

Email: [info@parishgiving.org.uk](mailto:info@parishgiving.org.uk) | Tel: 0333 002 1260

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