

ST. MARY, BLETSOE 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

The parish financial accounts 2019 have been agreed and signed off by Bill Rowlands. No changes were made to the draft accounts presented at the PCC meeting in January 2020.

SUMMARY

The accounts ending 31.12.2019 showed a surplus balance of £16,880.93. General fund balance £11,526.10. Please note that £8465.30 of this figure will be paid to The Friends of St. Mary's as reclaimed VAT from Listed Places of Worship. This leaves £3060.80 in the General Fund. Deposit Account £1,320.60, Designated Fund £100, Restricted Funds £3,934.23.

INCOME

Income came in at £56,686 compared to £25,090 the previous year. Please note this figure includes £34,664 received from Listed Places of Worship as reclaimed VAT which is then paid to The Friends of St. Mary's. Fees paid to the PCC were low in 2019, £81 out of which £39 was paid to the Diocese. 2018 fees retained were higher at £1,509 but this included outstanding fees recovered from previous years re Martin Bailey.

The total for the restricted funds for 2019 stands at £3,934 made up as follows: £552 for Curtains/Linen, Bell Fund £788, Table £300 and Pew Cushions £2,294. An order for half the required pew cushions was placed in December 2019. The remainder will hopefully be purchased during 2020.

Donations received during 2019 totalled £13,275 with £11,220 paid to the General Fund. Donations made through the Gift Aid Small Donations scheme **increased** by £1,099 to £2,715. This includes £340 raised for the Bishops Harvest Appeal.

Weekly envelope donations **increased** by £21 to £1,1520.

Automated donations **increased** by £1,825 to £5,785.

Cheque and misc. donations **decreased** by £25 to £1,200.

The above figures represent the general fund only.

Gift aid reclaimed £2,688.

Other significant income came from Bletsoe Church land dividend at £3,667.

£500 received from Bletsoe Parish Council to help with the costs of keeping the churchyard mowed and tidy.

EXPENSES

Expenses for 2019 not including reclaimed VAT came to £18,862 compared to £18,029 for 2018, the increase mainly due to an increase in the parish share, £12,457 paid in 2019 compared to £11,610 paid in 2018. Unfortunately, we struggled once again to pay 100% of our share, making 10 out of 12 payments, the same as in 2018, leaving a deficit of £2,491.50 for 2019. Although another payment could have been made, it was decided to start the new financial year assured of making the first of the 2020 payments.

Our second largest expense insurance premium costing £2,219, followed by electricity costs of £1,492, minor increases on 2018 (insurance £2,144, electricity £1,406), electricity costs increasing the most since 2017 (£1,313), due not only to additional electricity for the now completed Old Chancel but an increase in electricity prices.

DONATIONS

£450 donated to the Bishops Harvest Appeal.

£50 collected over the Christmas period donated to the Barnabas Foundation.

Trish Vine

Bletsoe PCC Treasurer