

Bolnhurst PCC

Treasurer's Report for Year ending 31.12.19

The accounts as presented have been inspected and found to be correct by our examiner who again did a very thorough job in seeing every invoice, bank statement and document for the year.

We started the year with balances in the unrestricted HSBC account and restricted [Fabric Fund] CCLA account of £6924.47 and £4789.20 respectively [**Total £11,763.70**]. A £50 clergy payment float is held by the CWs.

During the year the PCC sanctioned the opening of an interest earning unrestricted account with CCLA. £2500 was transferred into this account in July 2019 from the HSBC account.

We ended the year with balances of £3340.17 in the HSBC account, £2509.26 in the unrestricted CCLA account and £4995.94 in the restricted CCLA account. [**Total £10,845.37**] We were anticipating a deficit this year as the previous year's surplus was due to various generous personal donations, the Flower Festival to celebrate the 600th anniversary of St Dunstan's and proceeds of the Crocus Walk, none of which would be repeated in 2019. However we were fortunate to again have one very generous donation during the year. There was no income from weddings or funerals this year.

This was also the second year in which the change in the Gift Aid rules allowed us to claim Gift Aid on the weekly giving [subject to certain rules] and this netted over £989.98 from donations to 5.4.19. The reduction in Gift Aid from that in 2018 is explained by the rule changes which meant in 2018 we could claim retrospectively for some income in previous years. This of course did not apply from year 2 onwards.

Moving to the expenditure during the year there were no major surprises. Repairs were needed on the roof after an attempted theft but fortunately no lasting damage was suffered. A new aisle carpet was also purchased during the year and the insurance cover was amended very slightly to include some of the cover for The Old School. This portion was paid directly to St Dunstan's by the Old School Management committee who will continue to pay this on the annual renewal of the policy. We are pleased to say we paid our Parish Share in full.

Apart from the churchyard costs which were down due to a very dry summer when the grass needed cutting less frequently, the other general costs merely rose in line with expectation.

During the year the members of the congregation continued their monthly outreach coffee mornings in Bolnhurst Old School and from these over £1000 was given to four charities. St Dunstan's also benefitted by £186 from one coffee morning where the Fabric Fund was chosen as the beneficiary of any donations made.

Looking forward, and being conservative with our projections, there will again be a deficit this coming year. We have been so fortunate to receive generous donations in the past but these cannot be expected or relied upon. This means that yet again we must look to ways of raising money to keep St Dunstan's alive in Bolnhurst, particularly as 2020 sees the Quinquennial Inspection which itself incurs cost even if there are no immediate repairs required by the resultant report.

However now that we are part of the Wilden, Colmworth, Ravensden group together with Keysoe we are not standing on our own as we have done for nearly two decades. We can hope that with the support of Rev Tim Wilson and his team, new initiatives can be put in place for St Dunstan's enabling the future for our village church to be more certain. We have been so fortunate to have the support of several retired ministers over the years, none more so than Rev Derek Draper who inspired and encouraged the PCC to arrange special events and services outside the normal Sunday pattern thus encouraging those who perhaps did not attend regularly to join in with our worship.

In May 2020 we shall hold an Open Church weekend when we shall also welcome the five church communities to join us in worship on the Sunday. We look forward to this.