

Bolnhurst PCC

Treasurers Report for Year ending 31.12.20

The accounts as presented will be inspected by our examiner.

We started the year with balances of £3340.17 in the HSBC account, £2509.26 in the unrestricted CCLA account and £4995.94 in the restricted [Fabric] CCLA account. A £50 clergy payment float is held by the CWs.

We ended the year with balances of £3137.70 in the HSBC account plus the £50 cash float, £2519.92 in the unrestricted CCLA account and £5148.55 in the restricted CCLA account. **[Total £10,856.17]**

It was decided by the PCC during the year that in future the grant from the local Parish Council towards the churchyard maintenance should be 'ring fenced' in the accounts as a designated fund. The purpose of this is to enable a fund to be carried forward from year to year which can be used for plant and machinery maintenance and repair or replacement in the future. It may be wise to add to this each year from the main account at the PCC's discretion. We are all aware of the toll on the ride-on mower in particular and this year's expenditure illustrates that.

As in every sphere of life, St Dunstan's community and financial affairs were hit by the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic including the cessation of the monthly coffee mornings. With very few services taking place and no fund-raising possible after February 2020, income was adversely affected. However we were fortunate to again have some very generous donations during the year and the Gift Aid which related mainly to the income in 2019 was over £1,000. Sadly there was one funeral this year.

During the year the facility for on-line giving was added to the WCR web-site and we did see some donations made in this way. Additionally there was an increase in the number of monthly SOs received which was good. I think that this is something we should encourage as it helps with financial planning if we have a basic income each month which we can rely on. Another avenue for giving which was set up many years ago is Easy Fundraising and I think we should encourage villagers to register for this as many suppliers will donate a small amount every time an online purchase is made through their web-site. It may not amount to much in the overall annual income but 'every penny counts'!

Moving to the expenditure during the year, there were no major surprises. The Quinquennial Inspection and electrical inspection amounted to c £870 and thanks are due to Florence for organising this so well. As always there was some expenditure on the roof and annual or bi-annual inspections of items such as the fire extinguishers and lightning conductor.

We paid our 2020 Parish Share in full again.

Clergy costs were much reduced as the effect of joining with Wilden, Colmworth and Ravensden benefice together with the minimal number of physical services came into effect. However we now have to pay £25 per month into a joint expenses account from which travelling expenses, office expenses etc., for Tim, David and Geraldine are paid. In addition we now pay a contribution to the Music Licence Fee.

Apart from the churchyard costs which were higher than anticipated, the other general costs merely rose in line with expectation.

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 I believe we must expect an increase in our Parish Share in 2022.

However now that we are part of the Wilden, Colmworth, Ravensden group together with Keysoe we are not standing on our own, although there is much to be done after the restrictions of the pandemic to forge stronger links with the other parishes. Despite the Re-imagining initiative currently under discussion, 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.

Wendy Levy. May 2021.