

Questions from Nigel Smith

Responses in red from our treasurer, Tricia Meads

Annual Review

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this excellent document of life here at Christchurch over the last year.

The financial review at the end gives a synopsis of year end position and some detail about the Simon Room refurbishment together with a comment about mission giving. And clearly the Church is in a better financial position at end of December compared to the previous year and the treasurer and finance staff, church wardens and David and the congregation have encouraged us to be more sacrificial in our giving.

Accounts

The full audited accounts were not available as at 19 April 2018, which is disappointing, as receiving them on the day does not give people a chance to ask sensible questions at the APCM. I attended the Church today Thursday to review the draft set on noticeboard. As I am unable to attend I ask the following questions:

1. Are the draft accounts and audited accounts likely to be in same format?

Yes

2. As this is the first year that the accounts have been audited (rather than Independently examined) have there been any audit adjustments and/or changes to prior year accounts

No- the accounts were fully audited about 3 years ago

3. The accounts intro refers to clustering arrangement with neighbouring parishes – practically what does this mean?

We are in a cluster with St Luke's Stanmore & St Barnabas, Weeke.

In practice this means the clergy are closely aligned and meet regularly. PCCs should be praying for each other. In terms of oversight, Rev Ed Dines from St Barnabas has taken joint responsibility with Rev Mike

Gardiner for St Luke's & St Mark's Stanmore, so these parishes are working together particularly closely.

4. Quinquennial review in 2017 – please can you outline any issues

The main issues related to some roof repairs, electrical works and an update to the heating controls and some radiators in the Church Centre. David Boul would be able to provide you with more details.

5. Significant Public benefit delivered – how does CCW define this?

Surely it would be unusual for a church not to seek to deliver a public benefit? However, a definition would probably relate to the number of people of all ages who use the church building or run/attend activities, including non-churchgoers, and reach out to others in activities such as Messy Church & Messy Dads.

6. Risk Management – indicates that there are policies for safeguarding young people, vulnerable adults and domestic abuse. These are complex documents, can they be summarised for next APCM re key points?

The documents are on the website. I'm not sure a summary would be readily available as they are long and detailed and seek to ensure that, within the church environment, we afford the necessary protections to both young people and vulnerable adults. Christ Church has adopted the Diocesan Policy.

7. Ref Draft Accounts – Income: Donations and legacies plus £300k year on year, of this how much is attributable to the Simeon Room/AV project?

Income in respect of the Simeon Room appeal was £140k. One-off giving in respect of the 2017 gift day was £75k and the church weekend away income was £92k.

8. Ref. Draft accounts – Expenditure: Mission 17% down on prior year at 71k of which grants are £42k. However Note 5 only accounts for part of the expenditure and there is no comparison with the prior year. In the Outward subgroup commentary in the Annual review there are comments that we financially support Tear Fund and CMS yet we have only given these two bodies less than £5,000 in total. Our reduction in Mission giving appears to have been a PCC decision as per the Financial report. Also the outward subgroup indicates that we have been supporting E Newport (Wycliffe) £9600 this year but not separately identified in prior year.

Only grants to institutions are detailed in the accounts, not grants to individuals. The payment to Wycliffe has continued for a number of years and probably should have been disclosed in previous years. I understand there is no requirement to include a comparison to previous years under Note 5 but both figures will be available from the 2016 accounts if required.

9. Ref. Draft accounts – Note 5 refers to The Mission Budget report for detail (perhaps this Note should be expanded). Can the Mission Budget report be added to Annual review page on the website

We will take this forward within the Outward sub-group and PCC. The PCC recently received the details of the Mission Budget for 2018.

10. Ref. Draft accounts – water costs have increased from £5k to 8k this year. Is there a reason for this sharp increase/do we have a leak?

No- it appears we have a significant credit balance on our account and we are taking steps to reduce the monthly payment & claim a refund.

11. Ref Draft accounts – support costs, audit costs suggested by note are £3,000, yet audit costs shown as £2,760. Do additional costs need to be accrued?

I will check this but my understanding is that an accrual of £3k was made in the 2016 accounts for the 2016 audit fee so there will actually be a small credit in 2017. Obviously the full audit fee is higher than just an examination fee for the accounts.

12. Ref Draft accounts - Fixed asset additions in year – what were these and are they related to Simeon Room project?

Yes the fixed asset additions all relate to the AV equipment in both the Simeon room and the church.

13. In last year's accounts there was a related party note but not in draft accounts/or is this in the Audited accounts?

A related party note is included in the audited accounts under Note 6.

If time is pressing at The APCM, perhaps an explanation for reduction in mission giving could be addressed, and reasons behind PCC not wishing to

commit to spending in 2017. The financial report refers to £100k budget for mission in 2018, but also makes reference to 'church plant' but no monetary figure is showing

Hope the annual review party goes well

Regards

Nigel Smith