

Our Lady of Lourdes & St Swithun's Parish Financial Report 2019/20

Please find below a short report on the parish finances for the year ended 31st August 2020.

The effects of the global pandemic have obviously seriously impacted the finances of the parish. We had taken a financially prudent approach in the first 7 months of the year, limiting expenditure where we could, in order to save for some major restoration works that we know are coming (more on that later). However, at the end of March we went into lockdown and immediately income from our hall rentals stopped (around 16 – 18% of our annual income).

Although the work of the parish did not stop and Father Marcin continued to celebrate mass daily as before, staff were furloughed in order to save money and we were reliant on the help of volunteers to keep things going. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the small band of volunteers who kept the parish going through those difficult times and also stepped up to act as wardens and marshals to help our safe return to the church once we were allowed. Thank you so much!

In the year to 31st August 2020 the parish income and expenditure was as follows:

	£
Income	
Offerings by standing order	47,753
Cash offerings	24,858
Gift Aid	13,533
Rental income	9,506
Hall income	14,593
Other Income	11,127
Legacies	20,097
	<hr/> 141,467 <hr/>
Expenses	
Clergy	-12,678
Staff	-16,583
Church	-9,552
Presbytery / office	-12,027
Hall	-8,796
Insurance	-5,868
Diocesan Charge	-26,720
Other including repairs	-11,166
	<hr/> -103,387 <hr/>
Surplus	38,080

The surplus is largely due to the £20,097 that parishioners so kindly gifted the parish as legacies in their wills. If you would like more information about creating a legacy follow this link <https://stswithuns.org.uk/leave-a-legacy-to-st-swithuns>.

We managed to balance off the fall in our hall income by cost savings in all expenditure categories.

Thank you so much for your continued generosity in making offerings to the parish (and supporting our homeless projects with your donations) that have helped the parish remain solvent in these difficult times. But we have an elderly church in need of some major renovations including the works postponed last year. In the coming year we will need to invest around £60,000 in essential repairs to the sandstone on St Swithun's church. Without this work there will be a serious deterioration in the fabric of the church. We are also due to have the five-yearly survey of the church estate by diocese appointed surveys that will identify and timetable all of the work that must be carried out over the next 5 years.

So please continue to give as much as you are able and consider gift aiding your donations if you are a UK tax payer so that the government gives us an extra 25pence for each £1 that you give us. For more information about gift aid follow this link <https://stswithuns.org.uk/parish-finances-gift-aid-2> and if you would like to set up a standing order to make donations to the parish all the information that you need can be found at <https://stswithuns.org.uk/appeal-a-note-on-parish-finances-can-you-help/>

Finally, I sincerely hope and pray that you and your loved ones all remain safe and well and look forward to the time when all parishioners feel able to attend mass again in our wonderful parish.

Jon Sumpter

Chair of the Finance Committee