

St Joan of Arc Finances - Thank you very much

Thank you to everyone who has supported our parish so well during these challenging times. The financial support you are giving is outstanding and details of our year end finances follow but firstly I would like to put donating money within the wider context of Stewardship.

In recent months so many of you have been a shining example of the Stewardship that is one of the primary ways Christ calls us to live our life. He reminds us that all we have and all we are is a gift from God Himself. Our gifts include many things; our faith, our friends and family, our skills, possessions, our community, our parish, and the gift of life itself. He asks us to approach our gifts gratefully, responsibly, accountably, to share them appropriately in our community and parish. Renewing your personal commitment to the Faith through giving is an important part of your personal **spiritual growth** and **discipleship**.

Each one of us is blessed with a unique portion of Time, Talent and Treasure. God calls us to use and share these blessings with others, including our parish. You could share your Time by praying and engaging with your parish online. You could share your Talent by volunteering your skills. You could share your Treasure by donating. The amount of **Time**, **Talent** or **Treasure** should suit your circumstances.

Recently I have seen many examples of people helping and serving others and I know what I have seen is only a very small example of what is going on. Well done.

Now to give a parish financial update

In March 2020, as we know, everything changed with Covid. From a financial standpoint, the collection plate donations and centre rental income stopped. Fortunately our standing orders continued with a few people taking out new standing orders. To this were added a few individual donations.

Obviously we immediately minimised our expenditure in an appropriate manner including making use of the government furlough scheme.

Thankfully everything worked out fine and we are financially secure as the following numbers will show.

When things get back to normal it is clear we must move away from cash on the plate to electronic giving: ideally standing orders but also with a contactless giving facility

for those who cannot commit to regular standing orders. Cash processing, typically by pensioner volunteers, is just too dangerous.

Both standing orders and contactless donations will be able to qualify for the 25% uplift given by gift aiding.

2020 financials

Bank balance 1 Jan 2020	£38,177	
Income	£144,505	(2019 £206,687 - 31% down)
Parish expenditure	£93,146	(2019 £168,835 - 55% down)
Diocesan levy	£61,080	(2019 £58,296)
Deficit	£9,721	
Bank balance 31 Dec 2020	£ 28,456	

I've tried to keep things very simple. For those who wish it, more detailed parish accounts and details of how the diocese use the levy are attached.

Finally, I would like to mention a few changes to our finance committee.

- My sincere thanks to Bernard Whelan who is soon to move up north closer to family. Since 2009 he has been giving outstanding service as parish accountant.
- Gerry O'Donnell has retired from his role as Gift Aid coordinator but remains on the finance committee. Since taking over in April 2014 Gerry has facilitated about £130,000 of tax rebates to the parish. Brilliant!
- We welcome Rachel Bosner and Mena Bueno to the team taking over from Bernard and Gerry respectively.

If you have any questions or comments please address them to our chair of finance, Jim, at jimandjane.odonnell@btopenworld.com Tel: 01252 782802

Thanks again and God bless

Fr Niven

Financial Report 2020

General Fund unrestricted balance 1 Jan 2020 £38,177

	2020	2019	
Income			
Offertory	106,057	145371	-39314
Donations	6,581	2500	4081
Legacies			
Tax Rebates	23,257	21762	1495
Bank Interest			
Repository	1,292	2879	-1587
Rents	3,813	19695	-15882
Fundraising	3,505	14480	-10975
Diocesan/Parish Grants			
Total income	144,505	206,687	
Expenditure			
Personnel	51,349	52,379	-1030
Travel	180	231	-51
Office	6,382	6,183	199
Establishment	19,496	26,950	-7454
Domestic	2,195	3,801	-1606
Repository	481	2,151	-1670
Property	4,626	38,314	-33688
Projects & Equipment	1,309	20,732	-19423
Liturgy & Pastoral	5,602	16,522	-10920
Fundraising	1,360	1,308	52
Diocesan levies	61,080	58,296	2784
Grants	160	264	-104
Bank charges	6		6
Total expenditure	154,226	227,131	
Surplus/deficit	-9,721	-20,444	

General fund unrestricted balance 31 Dec 2020 £28,456

Development Fund balance 1 Jan 2020 £13,408

Receipts for the year	15352
Expenses	
SJC lighting	10858
Church electrics	885
Church door	2100
Church side aisle painting	4760
Total expenses	18603

Balance 31 Dec 2020 £10,157

The diocesan levy.

I think we can all understand that running a large diocese like Arundel and Brighton is quite a challenge. In addition to religious leadership one must remember the vast number of management, legal and regulatory compliance issues that must be met. These continue regardless of lockdown. The levy contributes towards the cost of providing these centrally managed services. They include:

Supporting our clergy: retired priests, training new priests, formation and support including a welfare team and use of a coastal house for clergy respite. Supporting priests who take sabbaticals and study leave

Providing administrative services that are best done centrally: accounting and financial management, Payroll, HR, Health & Safety, IT support, Gift aid, communications and fund raising.

Governance activities for the charitable trust: recruiting and training trustees, setting policy, managing risks, engaging with our regulator, audit and statutory reporting for the diocesan trust and its subsidiaries.

Additionally, the Cathedral conservation and maintenance.

This central team is extremely well lead by Sarah Kilmartin. Our thanks to her and the central team for their very valuable help.

Later this year the diocese will issue a brief video accessible from our website that will explain their work in more detail.

Incidentally, this levy information has been included here because it is our biggest expense.

Unfortunately, the levy could not be reduced in 2020 but the diocese will reduce it by about 25% in 2021.