



Church finances

October 2019 update

In 2017-18, we deliberately spent considerably more than we've received – to enable us to get our mission priority areas off the ground. At the same time, a number of generous donors left our congregation, leaving our projected income significantly lower than our expenditure. So this time last year, the Parish Church Council agreed to make some large cuts to our 2019 expenditure.

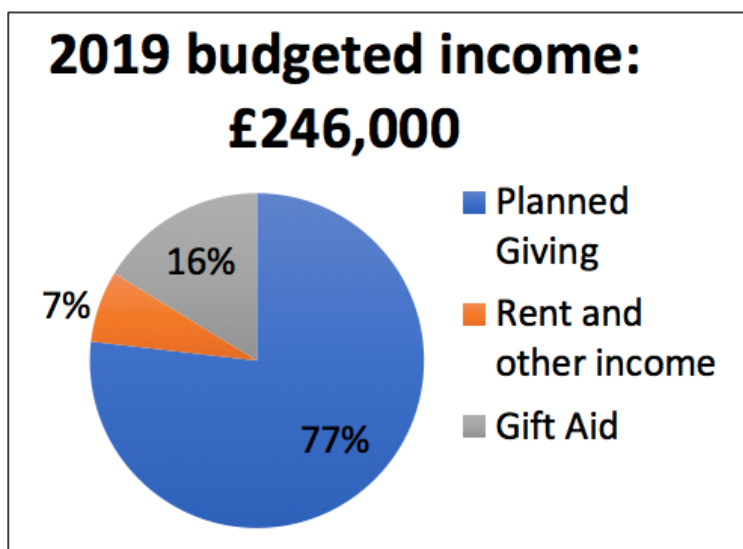
At the same time, we also laid out our financial situation to the congregation. People responded generously, and in the last 12 months, we've seen an increase in giving. As a result, we're now anticipating a budget surplus (rather than a slight deficit) in 2019. This will help us finance ongoing investigations into hoped-for building developments. As some of the recent increased income has been one-off giving, our anticipated regular giving levels for 2020 remain a little unclear.

Where does our income come from?

We are funded almost entirely from the **sacrificial giving of our members**. We are very grateful to those who give to enable our mission and ministry to happen.

It is helpful for our planning if people's giving can be planned rather than spontaneous. The best way for this to happen is by Standing Order.

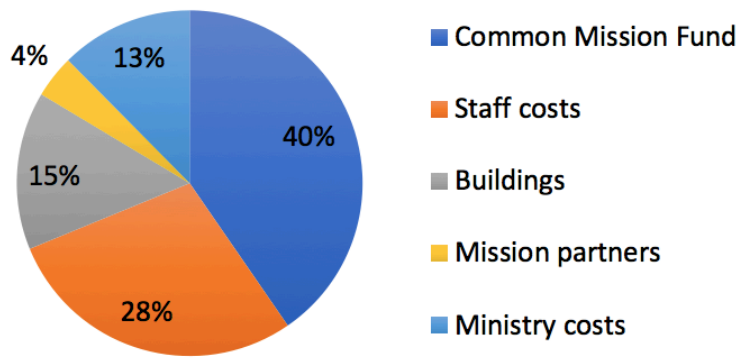
Those who are tax-payers should fill in a Gift Aid form, if they have not already done so, to enable us to get extra income from the Government, at no additional cost to the giver.



What will we spend the money on?

As part of the Church of England, we contribute to a '**diocesan common mission fund**' – some of which benefits our parish directly; and some of which helps fund the work of other C of E churches in the area which aren't as blessed financially as we are.

2019 budgeted expenditure: £250,000



Our **staff costs** will pay for our youth work, schools and children's work and administration and office work.

Our **mission partner** donations go to: SCRATCH, CMS, Andrew Leake (Argentina), A Rocha, Busoga Uganda link.

Our **buildings costs** pay for the maintenance, cleaning, utilities

bills and insurance of our 4 buildings. We have made the decision to sell St John's as a step towards reducing our buildings costs. The proceeds from that will be earmarked for renovation work on St James' by the Park and/or the Parish Hall.

Further information

If you have any questions about our finances, please contact our Treasurer, David Phillips, on 8077 4307 or david.phillips@stjamesbythepark.org

Some Biblical principles

The Bible gives lots of practical guidance on handling money, touching on subjects like budgeting, saving, greed and giving. Money is seen as a blessing from the Lord. Jesus teaches that it should be a tool we can use to invest in building God's kingdom, not something which enslaves us (Matt 6.19-24).

If you struggle with managing your personal finances, or face a crippling debt burden, we would be happy to recommend people or courses which will be able to help you. We also have a small 'Care Fund', to help those who cannot afford immediate essential expenses.

When it comes to giving, the Bible encourages us to be prayerful, cheerful and free (2 Cor 9.7). It encourages us to give "first to the Lord" (2 Cor 8.5), in a manner that is planned and proportional to our income (1 Cor 16.2); and to give sacrificially (2 Cor 8.2-4). Our pattern in this is the "Lord Jesus Christ [who] though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor 8.9).

When it comes to giving, it is not the size of the gift that matters but the attitude of the heart (Luke 21.1-4).

It is a good discipline to review your finances (including your giving) at least annually. It helps our PCC if you can let us know how much (God willing!) you hope to give over the coming 12 months. Please pray about this, then return the enclosed form by the end of October.

Financial Commitment to St James' by the Park

Having reviewed my giving, my / our financial commitment to St James' by the Park will be:

£ _____ per month / quarter / annually* [* Please delete as appropriate]

I will give this by: bank transfer / envelopes / collection plate*

Please tick any of the following that apply:

- My commitment is remaining the same as previously.
- I have already instructed my bank to start this as a new standing order.
- I have already instructed my bank to amend my existing standing order.
- I have filled in the Standing Order form overleaf; please contact my bank on my behalf.
- I would like more information on leaving a gift in my will
- I would like information on the scheme which automatically prompts a giving increase each year in line with inflation

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer and eligible to Gift Aid your donation, please complete the form below and give it back to the Church Office:

This will increase your gift by 25p for every £1 given (at current rate), at no extra cost to you or us. Thank you. *Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of this declaration and in the past four years*

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Other important points to note:

1. Please notify the church if you
 - Want to cancel this declaration
 - Change your name or home address
 - No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax. Basic rate tax is currently 20%, which currently allows charities to reclaim 25p for every £1 donated.
2. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code

The PCC of Shirley (St. James' by the Park) is a Charity Registered in England and Wales No. 1130875

Signed _____

Date _____

Standing Order form

- This is a new standing order to St. James' by the Park ("Shirley PCC")
 This is an amendment to an existing standing order

Your name: _____

Your bank name and address: _____

Your bank sort code: _____

Your bank account number: _____

Please pay: **PCC of Shirley**

Sort code: **55 50 23**

Account number: **69481377**

Amount: _____

Date of first payment: _____

Frequency: Monthly Quarterly Yearly

until further notice.

Signature:

Date: