

Stranton Parochial Church Council Treasurer's report on the year ended 31 December 2021.

Once again God has been faithful to us in our finances for 2021. The Church had an overall net surplus of **£1,814 in 2021** (2020 - £5,689): This small net surplus for the year is a however combination of a deficit of **£6,085** on the church General fund - after charging half the cost of the Audio visual equipment as depreciation (2020 - £9,762 surplus on General Fund) offset by a surplus of £7,899 on St Matthews Community Centre account (reversing the 2020 Community Centre deficit of £4,073).

As reported last year the bequest of the late Margaret Lumley, received in the 2020 financial year, substantially enabled us to fund the "accessible" capital works and new servery in the previous year and to generate £9,500 of the surplus brought forward for 2021 to offset the expected deficit for that year. The out-turn for 2021 was in fact slightly better than expected, taking into consideration the large increase in depreciation arising from the investment in Audio Visual equipment.

The Covid – 19 pandemic continues to affect some aspects of our revenues. St Matthews Community Centre recovered very substantially but not yet fully, mainly because the Centre Management were able to secure some public sector contracts as part of the pandemic response. These contracts are not being renewed and the Centre management are aware of the financial need to attract new and returning users. In the church General fund, net Fees and Occasional Services income continue to be depressed and the Burbank Community Church has ceased meeting. Again we have lost some of our regular faithful members who have died, and not been replaced in our giving and loyalty schemes, leading to some concerns over the future of regular giving. We have for the time being continued to benefit through some generous "one-off" donations, a large part of which was earmarked to meet the costs of employment of our lay staff.

In our expenditures, we met our agreed Parish share to the Diocese in full at £34,033: we were asked for a further 10% increase for 2022 but have in fact committed to a lower but achievable £35,250: this is still a challenge at nearly £3,000 a month but as we seek the appointment of a new incumbent and continue to benefit in many ways from Diocesan services and support, we must recognise the need to "pay our way" in meeting the costs of stipends pensions and ministry support. We will have to be super efficient and exercise careful stewardship of our resources in the light of rapidly rising costs especially in the areas of energy and office supplies.

The Hartlepool Communities of Hope team, which Stranton PCC "Hosts" on behalf of the Central Hartlepool Group in the largest of our restricted funds, which creates neither deficit nor surplus as it passes through our accounts as "Ring fenced" resources. We will shortly be required to consider its longer term sustainability as one of the main project outcomes. The other major restricted effort of the year was in the direct fundraising of over £51,000 with gift aid and grant income promised for the refurbishment of our bells, which have not had a major overhaul for 70 years. We were supported financially by Grant funding in other ways too – for the Olive Branch allotment, for the living costs of our Ministry Experience Volunteer Lizelke Klindt (who will be returning to the UK in September 2022 to undertake Theological training), for costs of repairs, and for many small but necessary items of Kit to complete our Audio visual project and enable video mixing and live streaming of services and other events.

Restricted funds 2021

	CoH	Olive Branch	Lay Worker	MEV	Video equipment	Bells appeal	Repairs and improvements	Total
Grants & Donations								
Sir John Priestman Charity						8000.00		8000.00
C Cookson Trust						4000.00		4000.00
All Churches Trust						3400.00		3400.00
Diocese of Durham				3625.00				3625.00
SDF funds via Diocese	68755.01							68755.01
Anglian Water	5000.00							5000.00
Windrim Trust							5000.00	5000.00
Durham TVCR		1000.00						1000.00
PFC Trust	2000.00							2000.00
Donations	4654.87		14676.00		1513.99	35880.00		56724.86
Associated Gift Aid			3669.00					3669.00
total restricted income	80409.88	1000.00	18345.00	3625.00	1513.99	51280.00	5000.00	161173.87
Capital Grant St Matthews CC	2000.00							2000.00
Internal Rent St Matthews CC	5793.00							5793.00
other Operating costs and future commitments	18046.84							18046.84
Repairs					1513.99		5000.00	6513.99
Salaries costs	54570.04		18345.00					72915.04
Staff Expenses				3625.00				3625.00
Home mission		527.50						527.50
Deferred Mission Expenditure - 2022		472.50				51280.00		51752.50
Total Restricted Expenditure	80409.88	1000.00	18345.00	3625.00	1513.99	51280.00	5000.00	161173.87

I would particularly like to thank those who have continued to give in a planned and prayerful manner through Bank Standing orders and the Parish Giving scheme (PGS) and to those who continue to use their weekly envelopes too. I encourage all who are not already members to consider joining the PGS – it can be done entirely confidentially and online!

To close my report I would like to thank you for all your generosity, especially for the wise support and encouragement of Maureen Anderson as Assistant Treasurer, the Churchwardens Peter and Rohan and to Ken Shepherd and the counting team for their unseen but unstinting support.

David Craig Hon Treasurer April 2022