



St Andrew's
Chorleywood

Finance update from the Treasurer

31st January 2018

Dear St Andrew's Family,

Firstly, a somewhat belated very Happy New Year to you all and a huge thank you for your continued wonderful support.

I know that during the year some have had great joy while others have gone through difficult times with the loss of loved ones or as they face serious health or other challenges. It is so wonderful that through it all God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

As a church we have had so many encouragements over the last year under Tim's prayerful and purposeful leadership.

From a financial perspective, we saw a small increase in overall giving levels – Praise the Lord! With our excellent staff team working so hard, ably supported by so many dedicated volunteers, we have also continued to keep costs under good control. This combination has enabled us to meet our full Parish Share request as well as maintaining our support of our mission partners and organisations locally and around the world.

With your continued and much appreciated support, we look forward to 2018 trusting that God will continue His work in us and through us.

Financial Anorak's corner

For those who want a few more details:

1. Overall giving was up around £8,000 or 1% on 2016. Within that, regular giving was down around £8,000 or 2.5% while one-off gifts, including legacies, were up around £16,000.
2. A leading indicator of financial health is overall attendance. Attendance has been broadly steady for the last few years but more recently there have been encouraging signs of new families joining the church.
3. After the significant reduction in costs over the last few years (of around £130,000 since 2014), costs were broadly stable in 2017.

With our curate joining us in the middle of the year and one or two items needing replacing in the church, costs are likely to increase in 2018.

Gift Aid

Many thanks to all of you who have filled in gift aid declarations. For any who would like to fill in a form to enable us to claim back 25% of your net donation, forms are available in the carousel or on the website.

Many thanks also to those who give by standing order. It helps both the administrative burden on the gift aid secretary, and helps us in our planning. Again, forms are available in the carousel or on the website.

Legacies

We have been blessed to receive several legacies and gifts from relatives of former members over the past few years. It is a wonderful way to bless the church. If anyone is considering leaving a legacy to St Andrew's, there is a form in the carousel or on the website. Although we would always recommend getting advice from your solicitor, the following example from the website Legacy10.com might be helpful to those wanting to understand the tax angle. The example: if you had an estate of £525,000 and the normal entitlement of a single nil rate band, your beneficiaries would, all other things being equal, pay £80,000 in tax. If you gave away £20,000 which would be 10% of the taxable estate (10% of £200,000, ie £525,000 less the nil rate band of £325,000) then you would only pay £65,000 in tax. So the charity receives £20,000 and it only costs the beneficiaries £5000. The website has a calculator to enable you to put in figures relating to your own estate. I hope this example helps and doesn't cause more confusion...

Money and Discipleship Verse of the Month

It is very humbling as I go through the monthly gift aid process, to see the generosity of so many people whatever their circumstances – even those who I know have lost jobs or are going through hard times or indeed who have lost loved ones. Paul's verses to the Philippians seem very apposite...

Philippians 4 v15-20

...when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; ¹⁶for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. ¹⁷Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. ¹⁸I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus

John Ford
Treasurer