

MONEY AND KCM CHURCH 2006

At the end of 2005, the Church suffered a deficit of £2,750, the first for some years. At the start of 2006 the Church budget predicts a deficit of £8,000 + in its running costs by the end of this year.

What can we do about this now to enable the Church to move back into the black and to be able to meet all our annual running costs?

Questions that you may be asking:

Don't the Halls make a profit that could be used to meet the Church deficit?

Yes, the Halls do run at a small profit (£4,000 in 2005) but the PCC have decided that the Halls should be self-funding and that any money in hand will go for future maintenance and replacement works to keep this large building in good order. In addition, as the Halls pay their way, it costs the Church nothing to use them – so there is a hidden subsidy for us!

What about the Open Door Café profit?

Since it opened in January 2004, the Café has covered its set up and running costs and there has been a profit element too. In 2 years, the Café has given away £6,000 to charity – including donations to the Church. It would like to continue to do this and the PCC agrees.

So how can the Church afford new chairs in the Church?

The new seats in the side aisles have been funded from the legacy left for that specific purpose by Nora Hipgrave – and the money could not be used for anything else. We have also bought a rack of 50 extra chairs for use in Church and Hall that has been funded by the sale of the old wooden chairs and also from a donation given by the Open Door Café.

How can the Church afford to do work to the ceilings in the Halls?

We are losing potential bookings and it is vital to improve both the acoustics in the downstairs Halls and also to improve the sound insulation between the ground and first floors. This work will be carried out in August 2006. The improvement works will be funded from the capital amount, which we have in hand from the Halls final account. It will not come out of the Church account.

How can the Church afford new heating in the Church?

Everyone is agreed that the present heating system is woefully inadequate, does not heat the Church properly on a Sunday and that the Church cannot be heated during the rest of the week. Two of the heaters are unusable and the others are coming to end of their life. The estimated cost (in the region of £18,000) will be funded from our limited reserves, which we have built up over the years, though this work will deplete them considerably. Members of the church might wish to be associated with this vital work by making a one-off donation. We could defer this work but really ought to tackle this problem now so that the Church building is comfortably warm and to enable its economical and effective use throughout the week.

Why don't we hold a Gift Day to meet this year's deficit?

We could do this – but Gift Days are better held in order to raise money for capital items – such as the new Heating in the Church – and are no real substitute for improving the regular giving of all members. A successful Gift Day to meet the deficit for this year would need to be repeated every year after that – and is not the long-term answer.

Can't we reduce our running costs?

No, we have pared them down as far as they will go. We run a very tight ship and do not waste anything – but this also means that there is no spare money at present to increase our ministry. Indeed our running costs would be much higher if it wasn't for the time and talents that so many people offer freely to the life of our Church in so many ways – and we still need people to freely offer their time and talents for our work.

Can't the Diocese or the Church Commissioners help us?

No! They have no funds at all to support individual Churches and their running costs.

So what is the answer? The Parochial Church Council have agreed that there is only ONE realistic course of action open to us, which we must take NOW.

It is to encourage every member to look at what they give and how they give it, to enable the life of the Church to grow and flourish in all its aspects.

To this end, the PCC have agreed that

- All our members should be encouraged to use **Giving Envelopes or Bank Standing Orders** to ensure their regular weekly or monthly giving
- All our members should be encouraged to **review their regular Giving**, and try to **increase** that giving to cover our higher running costs - £4,950 per month
- All our members who are taxpayers should be encouraged to **Gift Aid** their giving – which increases your Giving by 28% at no cost

Here are a few questions for you to consider prayerfully:

- Has your regular giving increased in line with inflation?
- Have you reviewed recently how much you give to the Church and whether it represents a realistic proportion of your income.
- Have your circumstances improved? Can you regularly donate more?

Many people try to aim to give up to 5% of their take home pay for the work of the Church.

You might find the table below a help:

<u>INCOME (£) - Proportional Giving - Take Home pay (Income after Tax)</u>						
per year	5,000	10,000	15,000	20,000	40,000	60,000
5.00%	250	500	750	1,000	2,000	3,000
2.50%	125	250	375	500	1,000	1,500
1.00%	50	100	150	200	400	600
per month	500	1,000	1,500	2,000	4,000	6,000
5.00%	25	50	75	100	200	300
2.50%	13	25	38	50	100	150
1.00%	5	10	15	20	40	60
per week	50	100	150	200	400	600
5.00%	2.50	5	7.50	10	20	30
2.50%	1.30	2.50	3.80	5	10	15
1.00%	0.50	1	1.50	2	4	6

All you need to do to increase your Standing Order is to contact your Bank direct with your new instructions. If you use the weekly Giving envelopes, simply put in your extra Offering. If you need any assistance, please contact Jean Emmans, Hon Treasurer – 01707 855396.

If all 80 active members at KCM increased their giving by an average of £2 per week (£100 per year), then the deficit of £8,000 would be wiped out. Obviously some will not be able to increase their giving by such an amount – but others might be able to increase it by more than that. What we ask is that everyone takes time to review what is given to the Church.

So please will you consider now what YOU can do to help us to meet our responsibilities to our Church and help us to ensure that KCM not only survives but continues to thrive as a healthy, living Church, not just this year but for the future generations.

Thank you from the members of the KCM Church Council