

18th August 2021



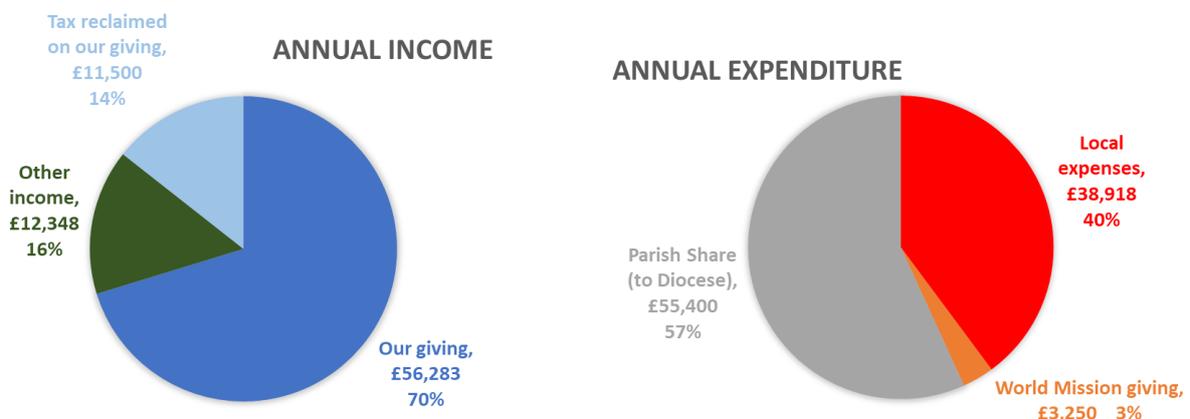
Dear supporter of St Nicholas',

Please excuse an impersonal letter.

It is our practice to ask the church to review our giving once a year. We have normally had a Sunday in November to consider this together, and I write to everyone on the Electoral Roll. But this didn't happen in November 2020, when we had just had our delayed Annual Meeting (normally April). All churches, like so many organisations and individuals, have found the last two years financially challenging and unpredictable. Collections were not possible in the period of lockdown and everybody's circumstances have changed, some financially for the better and some for the worse.

We want to say thank you to everyone who has given to the church in the period since we last thanked you! A more personal note will have come to you at a different time from Judith Book as Planned Giving Secretary if you have given details to her; this information is of course confidential and we ourselves do not know who gives, or how much. We are especially grateful that many people now give by Bank Standing Order rather than cash, which enables us to reclaim the tax easily, and is not disrupted by the interruptions to our physical collections. And those who give in other ways have contributed in a valuable way. Some are able to give little in absolute monetary terms but great treasure from the heart and in various forms of service and labour of love: thank you for all of that.

Please join us too in giving thanks to our generous God and Father, who has richly blessed us all. The financial position of the church is stronger than we might have expected. In November 2019 we were expecting the books to be roughly balanced for that year; in the end the accounts showed a deficit of £3,000 but this was more than offset by investment gains of nearly £15,000 on our assets of £70,000. The 2020 accounts showed a total income of £90,000, expenditure of £94,000, and again investment gains leading to an increase of (unrestricted) reserves to £84,000. This year we have also received a £10,000 legacy and are looking at how to use that in a special way: a sizeable chunk of it is likely to be used for upgrading our Audio-Visual system. Some old equipment could do with being replaced and we need to integrate things in a way that allows us both to continue extending services into people's homes via Zoom or YouTube, and to start opening the church midweek for visitors again as soon as possible. At the moment we have to leave expensive equipment set up from Sunday to Sunday, and we want a sustainable way to make it secure.



The above charts are based on budget figures for 2021, set at the end of 2020. This anticipated a drop in overall income from £97,000 to £80,000, mainly because of the impact of the pandemic on occasional giving, room lets, and fees for weddings and funerals. Half way through the year we are roughly where we expected to be, except that: (i) we had some big bills for Quinquennial works

(essential maintenance of stone walls and roofs) at the start of the year; and (ii) We are pleased to say that our World Mission giving has been more generous and already exceeded the budget estimate for the year. Current policy is that the amount given to World Mission is not set by the PCC, but is decided month-by-month by individuals choosing to give to the partners we are highlighting and supporting at the time.

It is great that committed giving has held up. Whilst we are very grateful for the investment gains, and the legacy, neither can be relied on for future “income”! (Although let’s all remember the church in our Wills.) We have trimmed expenditure in recent years and should now – as a church, between us – be looking to increase our regular committed giving rather than attempt any further cuts. The aim with church finances, of course, is not ultimately to balance the books, make a profit, or accumulate reserves, but to use God-given resources effectively for God’s mission.

The PCC took the decision in faith to advertise for a new Intern and be willing to pay up to a full-time salary rather than expecting them to raise their own support. That could cost around £17,000pa for 1-2 years. As it happens, nobody has applied for the post which has been advertised, so it is probably deferred to 2022-23. You may have given to Hugh’s Stewardship Account for his time with us; you might like to consider helping us to start building up a fund for employing future Interns.

Please will you now review your regular giving? Overall we hope to increase our giving, which means probably most of us giving more, but circumstances change and some will need to reduce. Please prayerfully consider how God has blessed you and what would be appropriate for you to give, in token of a heart and whole-life response of gratitude for his grace.

Enclosed with this letter is a 3-part form to fill in and return to Judith Book, our Planned Giving Secretary. Please kindly do this even if you have decided to keep your giving at the same level or increase in line with inflation, so that Judith can keep details up-to-date. It is simple. Please fill in the amount you intend to give regularly, at the top. This is not legally binding. If circumstances change, don’t worry, just let Judith know. Tick the option to say by what means you are giving. The middle section of the page is to fill in if you are a taxpayer and will allow us to claim your tax back (no further action required by you but do keep a record if you fill in a Tax Return). The bottom section of the page is for setting up a bank Standing Order. Judith cuts this off and sends it to your bank.

These details are confidential so please return the form in a sealed envelope. It is also available to download from the church website and either type and email your responses as an attached document, or print a copy to fill in by hand.

Thank you so much. God bless you,



Rita

Anna

Paul

Jonty (Rector)

Rita (Treasurer),

Anna and Paul (Churchwardens)

PS You may have received this by email to our Updates mailing list, or found it on the website – or for those on the Electoral Roll but not on the Updates email list, I hope we have managed to get a printed copy to you without too much delay. If you are not yet on the Updates mailing list and would like to be, please enter your email address and consent via [Mail Chimp](mailto:updates@stnicholasbathampton.org.uk) (if you can’t click on that link, go to www.stnicholasbathampton.org.uk , and click for “updates during the Covid-19 period”.

My pledge of planned giving to St Nicholas' Church, Bathampton

Regular giving is important to the Church as it helps us to plan our work. It is helpful to give regularly whether or not you are a taxpayer. Please indicate how you wish to make your gift.



I will give, until further notice, to the PCC of St Nicholas Bathampton £ _____ each week/month/quarter/year* (*circle as applicable) and this an increase/reduction* of approximately £ _____ on my current giving. I will pay by (please tick)

- Standing Order by completing the form below
- I will arrange payment myself with my bank (to the church account whose details are below)
- By Green Envelope

Name

Signature:

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If you are a UK taxpayer and eligible to Gift Aid your donation, please complete the declaration below. HMRC will then increase your gift by 25p for every £1 given 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, then it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Full Name : _____

Address (including postcode): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTES

1. Please notify the Planned Giving Secretary if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
 - Change your name, home address, or bank details
 - No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax, currently 20%.
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.

Please return in a sealed envelope Judith Book, St Nicholas' Planned Giving Secretary, 20 Holcombe Lane Bathampton BA2 6UL, or via email to judith.book12@gmail.com, or via church.

Your Bank/ Building Society _____

Bank Address _____

Post Code _____

Account in the name/s of _____

Account No. _____ Sort Code _____

Please pay to **Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas Bathampton** at Nat West plc, 24-25 Stall Street, Bath BA1 1TG – Account no. **50954121** Sort Code **60-02-05**

Amount; The sum of £ _____ (figures)

_____ (words)

on the _____ day of _____ month _____ 20__

or on receipt if later, and a like sum each month/quarter/year until further notice.

This replaces any previous Standing Order to St Nicholas Bathampton

Signed: _____ Date: _____