

APCM 2025 – Treasurer’s Report

HSM Treasurer: Robin Bishop

The below refers to the accounts for the calendar year 2024.

I am grateful to Karen Murphy for the auditing of the accounts. The accounts were approved by the PCC by e-mail following its March meeting. The complete accounts can be found on in the South Porch and on the St. Mary website

Overview

Overall there was a deficit of c£10k (2023 c£10k surplus) principally explained by repairs to the Brace Room roof. Income was down c£7.5k, Expenditure increased c£4.5k. However, please note the more detailed breakdown below.

Income

Donations, which vary from year to year, were down c£5.6k.

Fees down by c£1.5k reflecting fewer funerals.

Covenanted giving was up c£5.1k.

Investment income was up c£2.3k

Legacies. Nil (as opposed to one of £5k in 2023).

Fundraising now comes under the Friends, so a fall of c£1.3k reflects the transition taking place during the year.

Magazine income was up £0.5k

Brace Room Three elections in a year is always good news!

Friends It should be noted (as not shown in the accounts) that the Friends settled the £1.5k bill for the re-plastering in the Sanctuary.

The biggest single income source at 60%+ is giving by the congregation. Most now comes via the Parish Giving Scheme with a small amount from standing Orders, Envelopes and the collection plate. Signing up to the PGS can now be done online and takes 5 minutes, so if not signed up please give serious thought to so doing.

Expenditure

The biggest items of expenditure are non-discretionary ie Parish Share (c90% of which covers clergy costs) and insurance, so there is little leeway in respect of most other expenditure.

Work - Ministry Down £1.6k

Work - Church Up £11.3k explained by;

- *Repairs/maintenance* increase of £11.8k principally reflecting the bill for repairs to the BR roof

- *Churchyard* up £0.8k

Although offset partially by;

- *Utility* expenditure down c£1.7k the level of which is really beyond our control but helped by.

The Future

The generosity of the congregation, principally financially - but with some giving in kind - is keeping St. Mary’s head above water. That said – and whilst we should be pleased that HSM is solvent - there is no room for complacency.

I am very conscious that these are not easy times but the church is here 365 days a year and if everyone

moved to a regular payment that would help enormously.

Similarly, the Treasurer is happy to speak with anyone who might be considering leaving a legacy to St. Mary.

The Wardens will continue to monitor expenditure closely and the Treasurer is happy to receive ideas that will increase income.