

This last month we have seen Charles and Kate depart to Brazil on mission and you will have seen the scaffolding on the Old Vicarage as work continues to renovate the premises. Please note that back access to the Old Vicarage will be limited during the renovation work for Health and Safety reasons.

With regard to the status of our accounts for period to 31 May, 2024, our income is overall ahead of where we expect to be, however :

1. Our gift aid receipts have reduced by over £600 per month as people have moved away, however, on the positive side, we have seen receipts of income through pledged giving increase as a result of new and increased generous donations
2. The tenants at Andersons Way have now vacated the premises having completed on their house purchase in line with the initial agreement. We have asked Potters to look for new tenants for a six-month period starting 16 June, 2024. So far there have been no tenants identified but they expect to be able to let the premises by July.
3. As a result of the continued Bank of England base rate, we have enjoyed good returns on our investments over and above our budgeted expectations.
4. We have started to receive the final balances from the attendees of the Sizewell holiday with the balance due to Sizewell Hall due in July, 2024.
5. Whilst we have benefitted, like us all, from the warmer weather which has enabled us to reduce the amount of heating in our buildings, however, the current cold snap is likely to reverse our good fortune to some extent.

With regard to costs, there is much to say.

1. Whilst it appears that our salary costs are well behind budget, it was planned that a significant amount of that cost would fall in the final quarter of 2024. When looking at the detailed month by month budget vs. actuals, they mirror accurately the cost profile expected. It is noted that it is now unlikely that St. John's will be able to appoint a Youth Pastor in 2024, however, it is expected that we shall be able to appoint a PA to Charles in the coming months, as planned.
2. It was agreed at PCC on 13 May, 2024 that St John's would fund Charles and Kate's study leave trip to Brazil as there was no support from Diocese. We look forward to Charles and Kate sharing their experiences with us when Charles returns from retreat later this month.
3. Letting our vacant properties in Bury Hill and Andersons Way, not unexpectedly, has resulted in additional repair costs. In budgeting for following years, a maintenance budget will be needed for both properties. To this end, the Property Committee are establishing fabric funds for these properties within our portfolio.
4. The cost of gas and the longer than expected cold snap at the beginning of the year has resulted in an overspend in the church. Indeed, today [11 June] heating was needed in the church for Little Gems due to unseasonably cold weather. You will also have noted that areas around the church have been taped off for health and safety reasons as the spire was maintained.

5. The hall has been recently let to both Suffolk Coastal and Salvation Army which has achieved an unplanned windfall. Firstly, the election of Police Commissioner and next the forthcoming election in early July. But also, the Salvation Army have stayed longer than planned as their refurbishment is taking longer than anticipated and is likely to continue until August and possibly beyond.
6. The Old Vicarage budgets are running behind planned numbers as the work continues to renovate the premises. So far we have received one small invoice but are expecting much larger invoices in the coming weeks. You may have noticed that the guttering and downpipes have been upgraded/improved and many of the windows repaired and painted both inside and out.

Many of the Ministry Teams have underspent on budgets but that is not unexpected as we look forward to Big family Day Out and other costs to filter through such as the new projector and speakers in church. However, the costs are being managed closely by the Treasurer/Finance Committee but should any matter arise which we need to raise with the members of the church then please be assured, that you will be informed.

If you would like a copy of the financial statement or wish to discuss any elements of the briefing, please do not hesitate to contact me at [Treasurer@stjohnswoodbridge.org.uk](mailto:Treasurer@stjohnswoodbridge.org.uk) or at the Church Office on most Mondays and Tuesdays.