

# Financial Briefing



Firstly, Happy easter to all.....

Where has 2026 gone.....it is hard to believe that we are already in April.

This is the first financial briefing for 2026 as there has not been much to report about finances as we don't really see trends until we are 3 months into the year. The start of the year has been a little disappointing in that whilst we have interviewed candidates for an Operations Manager and Leadership Assistant, we have yet to have make a successful appointment, but we are encouraged to see that there are people in this area who are qualified to take on the role. We are exploring the way forward and will be readvertising the post soon. The recruitment of the Youth Pastor has been more challenging in that there has been expression of interest, but it has not been followed up with an application.

We have enjoyed a number of events in the first quarter including Ceilidh; Cherishing the Earth Eco conference; and Maundy Supper. They, by and large, operated within constraints and as a result, were either cost neutral to the church or carried a small overhead.

The status of our accounts for period to 31 March, 2026 is better than expected in that we are carrying a surplus of £38k vs. planned deficit of £30k.

1. Our total income, too date, is 13% over planned forecast as a result of :
  - a. Our pledged giving is 36% ahead of or planned budgets mainly due to two large donations.
  - b. Our gift aid giving is 8% ahead of budgets due to new members joining us.
2. Continued thanks to all our members who continue to give so generously monetarily but also in time.
3. The agreement for the tenants for Andersons Way expired on 31 July but we have agreed with the tenants to continue on a rolling one-month contract in the light that our need for the premises is not immediate. The wardens and I will be conducting a review with the Tenants at an agreed date in May, 2026
4. Just42 are well settled in Rooms 7/8 and due the higher occupancy of the building, we shall start conducting regular fire drills in the near future so if you find yourself in the Old Vicarage at that time, please evacuate to the muster point as requested.

With regard to costs, ongoing costs of running the church activities are running 26% behind budget.

1. As has been previously reported, the Diocese have agreed to freeze parish share payments for 2026 and 2027 financial years which will assist us and many other parishes across the deanery.
2. As a result of the ongoing recruitment issues, staff costs continue to run well behind budget.

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.