

Finance Report 2020

Dear friends,

As it is decided not to have the stated annual meeting this year, I have added some notes to go along with the accounts to explain some of the items.

The **Trustee's Annual Report** is shown on **pages 2 & 3** and the **Independent Examiner's Report** is shown on **page 4**. The trustees of Sandyhills Parish Church have approved the accounts on the **10th of February 2021**.

Page 5 (Receipts and Payments) shows the total receipts which is £74,951. A grant application was made by the Minister with The Ferguson Bequest Fund for Youth Pastor recruitment for which we received £5,000.

The total payments for the year accounted for £112,126. This shows that we have spent more during the year than we received, to the tune of £37,176 compared to last year's surplus of £55,720. But I am sure some of you will remember the reason behind the surplus we had in 2019 (It was due to a sale of investment which gave us £91,766).

Page 6 shows the **Statement of Balances**; we started the year with £178,451 and after a deficit of £37,176 we end the year with £141,276.

The investments at market value went down slightly and it was valued at £29,669 (on 31st December 2020).

Due to known circumstances (COVID), we did not get a chance to value the Manse (the plan was to get a valuation for Manse during the year because the value mentioned in the accounts has not been changed for the last few years), so it has been left the same as previous years at £430,000.

Multimedia Equipment has gone up from £1,308 to £8,094 and this is mainly due to the various equipment purchased for live streaming. (Though the actual cost of implementing live streaming was approximately £14,500 the rest of the expense was around installation and labour which cannot be accounted for under Assets).

Page 7 shows the **Movement in Funds**; 1st thing you would notice is the reduction in General Fund compared to the beginning of the year. We started the year with £75,093 and as at 31st Dec it is £37,989. It is decided by the board that £25,000 can be transferred from Miss Jean Dallas Fund into General Fund for this year (2021).

The name of 'Mission Fund' is now changed to 'Children & Mission Fund'; After having a discussion with the Minister, it was decided to keep the Youth Fund separate to be used only for the youth of the Church as there are some parents and others who are donating money for this cause and it will be easier to track if kept separate. The money from Children and Mission Fund will be used for both the Sunday school and mission related activities. We have a new youth pastor joining us soon, so it was decided by the board to transfer £45,000 (which is the amount pledged by the Church to fund this ministry) from Miss Jean Dallas Fund into a new fund called Youth Pastor Fund. This will enable us to easily manage the income and expenses related to youth pastor. £5,000 received as a grant (which is currently in General Fund) will also be moved to this new fund.

Pages 8, 9 & 10 shows the notes detailing the accounts provided in **pages 5, 6 & 7**. On **page 8**, Tax recovered on Gift Aid Donations is higher in 2020 compared to 2019. The reason for this is because we took a while to learn how to process gift aid claims since the previous member who did it passed away. And a bulk claim was made in 2020 for both 2019 and the 1st quarter of 2020.

It will not be a surprise to see that Open plate donation is considerably less compared to 2019. But I must point out that many of our members have now setup Standing Orders or donate using PayPal and that is why there is not a lot of decline in WFO scheme and Other Offerings have gone up too. I must convey a huge thank you to the members who are doing so and to the finance team (especially Bill Crawford and Ian Boyd) for persuading the members to sign up for standing order.

The staffing cost has come down slightly compared to the previous year, this is because we decided to temporarily stop the cleaner since July 2020. But we continue to pay for the church officer and the organist.

The money mentioned under Other Equipment at the end of Page 8 (£14,465) is what we spent till now on live streaming.

Page 9 shows the remuneration paid and a note about Minister's stipend. It also shows the details about the Investments held with 121 (Church of Scotland).

Page 10 details the split of Assets (Manse & Office equipment), depreciation is calculated at 25% on the cost of the equipment for the year. Depreciation for 'Purchased during the year' is calculated only for 2 months because these relate to live streaming and it was purchased near the end of October 2020. The last point is about the payments made to third parties during the year. Payment to Comfort International though much higher compared to previous year is not going from the Church's money, but we have set up a separate bank account into which some members pay on a regular basis to go directly to Comfort International and we act as intermediary in collecting the money and transferring to them.

Budget (2021): I have left the Offerings to the nearest actual figure to 2020, and Gift Aid is the average amount that we receive in a year. Tea Money and Use of Premises is set at £100 and £1000. I was going to put these as 0 but having a hope that we will go back to Church sometime during this year. Interest is going to go down as we will probably have to withdraw some money from our Skipton savings account during the year to fund the Youth Pastor and put some money into the General Fund as mentioned previously, and the current interest rate is almost near 0 for most of the savings account due to COVID. Investment income is also going to be lesser than usual as it is already mentioned by 121 that the market is not looking promising for the current year.

Under Expenses, 1st and 2nd item are fixed and you will notice M&M contributions are less for this year as this is a decision taken by 121 given the current situation. Staffing costs might go higher than £10,000 if we are to recruit a professional cleaner sometime during this year when we can go back into the building for worship. I have put £20,000 for now towards Fabric maintenance, this is mainly because there is some drainage work that needs to be done both in the Manse and at the Church. Heat & Light is higher because last year for almost 9 months we never paid any electricity bill, this is due to some ongoing issues with

the current electricity supplier Opus. 121 is aware of this and are working towards resolving the issues. But due to this, we will probably be paying both last year and current year's bill together sometime during the year. I have included £25,000 towards Youth Pastor employment, as the entire money is going to be managed by us now so rather than taking away the pledged £45,000, I have put a number which could possibly be what we might be spending in the 1st year.

With this budget we will have a deficit of £56,898.

This statement had been audited by Mr John Gilmour (Independent Examiner) and found to be correct and in accordance with Church of Scotland and OSCR requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact me at treasurer@sandyhillschurch.co.uk

Tony Amalraj
Treasurer