

## **St Thomas' APCM May 16<sup>th</sup> 2021**

### **Treasurer's Report**

In common with churches up and down the country, we have been affected by the global pandemic and seen our hall hire income disappear overnight and plate collections seriously depleted.

The good news is that this has been more than offset by the generosity of the congregation and the surrounding local community.

I am pleased to report that planned giving has increased by a further 15% on last year which is a real mark of collective faith and hope in such a time of financial uncertainty.

The local community has also been kind and keen to make sure that the church manages to wade its way through the Covid mire by coming together to support us at this time.

Key fundraising events of the year were a concert given to support the GWNS; the raising of almost £2k from the community inspired by a kind neighbour of Jim's who borrowed his garden hose! Then there was the combined Christmas fundraising activities, including Amabel's cookbooks, Angelique's calendars and Sheila's raffle which raised another £2k or so.

And while it can't exactly be termed 'fundraising', our coffers were certainly boosted by another £2k that Jim managed to get back from Bulb for electricity we didn't need as the church building was closed.

The other pieces of good news on the financial front come in the form of two grants that we received; one for £7k to do up the Upstairs Hall once we're able to hire it out again (please God!) and the other for £500 from the Diocese to assist with the costs of live-streaming services. Both of these were achieved through the skill and hard work of our Rector together with the assistance of our Ali Edney, our new Benefice Administrator who's been brilliant at pulling together the necessary quotes for these applications.

Our human resources have been boosted yet again with the arrival of our new Independent Examiner for the accounts, Beverley Campbell who is now checking the work of Helen Baker who continues to keep on top of the detail on the numbers front, banking cash and generally keeping on top of the visibility of our cashflow situation, all under the watchful guise of Helen Jakeways who continues to steer us cheerfully and positively through FBR meetings that provide a solid framework in which our financial position remains both solid and clear. So we are very pleased to have Beverley on board and that she is not also called Helen!

So, in summary, while it's not been an easy year for any of us, the promise that 'the good Lord provides' is as true for us today as it was for the generations that came before us without whose steadfast faith and commitment we would not have the hope we need to look forward to the year ahead and those that will follow.....thanks be to God!

Alison Warder, Treasurer