

## **PCC Treasurer's Report for APCM – Tuesday 23 April 2024**

As you will see from the summary Receipts and Payments Account, 2023 was another difficult year for the finances of both churches which resulted in a small overall deficit of £670, despite increased income from sundry donations, Gift Aid, fundraising and fees from weddings and funerals and our 2024 budget shows that we can expect an increased deficit at the end of 2024, largely due to substantial increases of 15% in our Parish Share to the Diocese and more than 30% in our insurance costs following the revaluation of St Giles church by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

Thanks to the generosity of our regular donors and the continued support of the Friends of Leigh Church, for which we are very grateful, we should still end the year with sufficient reserves in place to cover the expected shortfall in budgeted unrestricted income for 2024 but we also need to set funds aside for the next stage of the planned repairs to both churches.

It is now more than 10 years since we last wrote to all of our parishioners in both Leigh and Downhead to ask them to consider making a contribution towards the upkeep of our churches and our income from 'planned giving' has remained the roughly the same for many years so, if you would like to know more about how to give regularly to St Giles or All Saints church, please do get in touch with me or pick up one of our Regular Giving forms, which are available in both churches.

If you are already making regular payments to church funds but haven't increased the amount since you set up your standing order, we would be very grateful if you would think about whether you are able to increase your donations to help us cover some of these additional costs. We appreciate that these are difficult financial times but any increase, however small, would be greatly appreciated and help us to keep our amazing church buildings a welcoming place for people to visit for many years to come.

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