

## **An Important Message from our treasurer Brian Seaborn**

Annual Parish Council Meeting on 25 October heard that our church enjoyed an excellent financial year in 2019, reporting a surplus of almost £26,000 – quite a turn round from the £8,900 deficit in 2018. I explained in an earlier article that the surplus was achieved through a combination of fund raising, one-off donations, a slight increase in regular giving, bringing magazine production and grounds maintenance “in-house” and generous legacies.

2020 has turned out to be very different. Our monthly income from all sources is just about covering our running costs (even though gas and electricity bills have been lower for some months) but it’s not enough to pay the parish share or any maintenance costs. The restrictions imposed on us by the coronavirus outbreak are making things worse, just as they are for businesses and individuals.

At present, the gap between income and expenditure is around £5,000 per month. This is not all due to coronavirus but it’s making matters more difficult. We have been using the surplus from 2019 to get by but this is reducing steadily and I expect that our funds will be used by early 2021 unless action is taken now. The new PCC will need to agree a strategy to address this and without doubt it will include an appeal to the congregation for an increase in giving. If you can, please consider an increase in giving, making a donation – or letting any member of the new PCC know of any ideas you might have about fund-raising or other ways of generating income. Rev Cait has already suggested she could run a “virtual marathon” and has ideas about approaching large companies for donations. This has to be part of an agreed plan by the PCC, so please consider what you could do and what we could all do.

We will be in touch with the Diocese about our position but in the meantime, please give thought and prayer to our difficult position. I write this without knowing how the coronavirus affects individuals and I’m sorry if this comes at a difficult time for you. For those who are unable to go further please be assured that we understand.

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Bank details for donations to Mottram Parish Church

Sort Code 05-05-29

Account number 45670614