

CATERHAM TEAM MINISTRY
THE CHURCHES OF ST. PAUL & ST. AGATHA, WOLDINGHAM

REPORT ON FINANCE TO THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2016

I am pleased to report on the PCC's finances for the year ended 31st December 2015. The accounts for the year have been completed and subjected to examination by our independent examiner, Roger Lugg. They have been available at the back of St. Paul's now for some weeks.

Our total funds at 31st December 2015 stood at some £190,000 (2014 – £184,000) of which £159,000, 84%) (2014 – £156,000, 85%) related to funds which can only be used for specific purposes – principally the George Lucy bequest fund (for the maintenance of the churches and churchyards), the St. Agatha's Churchyard fund and the balance of the Village Memorial Fund, which will be retained to fund maintenance of the Memorial. The remaining £31,000 is in respect of funds to be spent at the discretion of the PCC, although 82% of that is in respect of funds designated for specific purposes, leaving just under £5,600 in the General Fund. I am pleased that we were able to report a surplus of £751 on the general fund following deficits for several years. That surplus arose as a result of the increased level of giving that followed from our stewardship campaign in 2014 and the lower quota in 2015.

We continue to manage our costs as best we can but there are few options open to us to reduce them. Our means-tested contribution to the South London Church Fund, being our share of the costs of clergy in the Diocese of Southwark, was £49,000 in 2015. As I mentioned in my report last year, a new system has been put in place from the start of 2016 to replace the previous arrangement. It is based on pledges from each parish and, as we correctly predicted, we were asked to pledge a contribution to the Diocese for 2016 based on the 2015 quota. After extensive discussion, we have agreed a pledge of £42,500 for 2016. The reduction reflects not only the loss of some of our regular donors but also our desire to restore our general fund to a level which provides some contingency fund against major costs or loss of income and remains substantially higher than the cost of providing our clergy; in other words we continue to contribute generously to the mission of the Diocese and to support less well off parishes.

In 2015 we spent around £5,000 on maintenance, the largest elements being the regular maintenance of the St. Agatha's churchyard and repairs to the St. Paul's boilers. Both churches remain well-maintained and in good condition and we continue to benefit from the hard work of volunteers in maintaining the church grounds at St. Paul's and St. Agatha's. The regular five yearly (quinquennial) inspections were completed by our appointed church architect during 2015 and the reports to the PCC recommend various maintenance work, including replacing the lead roof of the St. Paul's Church tower which we know will be costly. In addition, we expect to incur substantial costs for repairs to the bell in St. Agatha's – until further investigative work is done we will not know the extent of those costs.

Our investments – held with the Church Board of Finance and mostly in respect of the George Lucy fund – increased in value again in 2015, despite volatile markets. We will continue to manage the investments to maximise return consistent with providing adequate funds to pay for maintenance activity.

Finally, on behalf of the PCC and the congregation I would like to express my thanks to Roger Lugg for continuing to act as our independent examiner.

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Tim Salmon
Tel: 01883 653166
Email: salmons@ukgateway.net