

# Stewardship 2022

## *Growing Our Church*

2021 has, inevitably, been a challenging year, bringing changes to our methods of worship and additional reflections on how we can best serve our congregation and the wider community. There have been important innovations, including extensions to our pastoral work, the well-received opening up of the church for longer periods, the three West Porch initiatives at Christmas, Easter and Harvest, the live broadcasting of services and the Remembrance service in October. Clergy and congregation hope to be in a position to continue to grow on these foundations.

Growing our church depends on you, both through your time and your financial support. Thank you so much for your very positive responses to last year's appeal in these difficult times. With the loss of almost all our income from planned events since early 2020, St Helen's simply could not have functioned adequately without the generosity of the congregation and your loyalty to the Planned Giving Scheme. We now have 128 members of the scheme. As a result, in 2021, we now expect to record a deficit of approximately £7,000-£8,000, compared with £25,000 in 2020.

The outlook for next year remains uncertain, but we feel it is important to move beyond a position where we just balance the budget each year and proactively plan. Instead, we aim to reach a position where we define our priorities for the coming year and assess the income that is needed to attain these goals.

Our longer-term programme includes continuing to help and expand the charities we support, greater concern for the environment, more engagement with the local community, particularly with our baptismal and wedding families. Following the completion of the ceiling repairs, our major capital expenditure is expected to be planned improvements to the lighting in the church, which will enhance worship, whilst also making the church more attractive to external users.

So, allowing for savings, the slowly increasing income from Parish Centre rental, and fund raising, we've prepared a budget for 2022, which may result in a deficit of about £9,000; we hope to eliminate this quickly, but the size of the deficit largely depends on the generosity of the congregation in our Planned Giving Scheme. ***'The continuance of the life and work of the church is wholly dependent on the donations'*** (Rector- DCC meeting Sept 14<sup>th</sup> 2020).

**If you can afford to, please increase your pledge.** We realise inflation is forecast to be significantly higher. If this will mean that you

can't afford to continue to donate at the same rate, please give what you can. The following table shows the pledges for this year (2021).

Monthly Gifts in 2021	No of pledges	Total income p.a.
Less than £25	28	£5,500
£25-£49	32	£13,500
£50-£99	40	£33,000
£100 plus	28	£51,500
<b>Weekly Gift-aided pew envelopes</b>		£2,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>128*</b>	<b>£106,000</b>

\*includes 35 joint pledges

**To join the scheme, please contact Jeff Dale, Stewardship Recorder**

tel: 01235 531521

or email: [jeffrey.dale@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:jeffrey.dale@mypostoffice.co.uk)

for further information.

*Details of your giving are known only to the Stewardship Recorder. Also contact Jeff Dale if you require envelopes for cash donations or a Gift Aid form. **Please Gift Aid if you can.***

**Please complete the pledge cards and send to The Stewardship Recorder, c/o Parish Office St Helen's Church, Abingdon, OX14 5BS.**

Alternatively, call or email Jeff Dale with details of your pledge for 2022.

## Our bank details:

St Helen's Church, Abingdon  
Sort Code: 60-01-01 Acc No: 61580333

**To those who have given, those who continue to do so and those who are joining the scheme, we give our thanks with great appreciation. We would also like to thank all those who have given their time and energy to St Helen's as well as their financial donations.**

### Legacies

**Please consider including St Helen's or the Trust for the Development of St Helen's as one of the charitable causes in your will.**

Anybody who makes a will leaving at least 10% of their net estate to charitable causes will reduce the rate of Inheritance Tax on the balance of their estate from 40% to 36%.

*Printed October 2021*

The main items of budgeted **expenditure** in our General Fund for **2022** are:

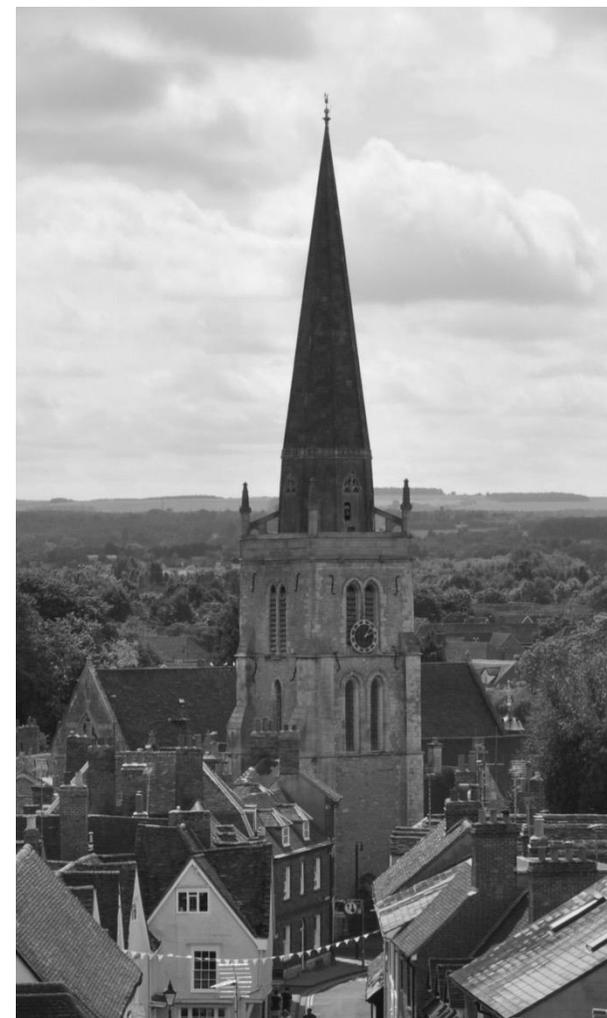
Diocese Parish Share (net)	£92,100
Salaries and staff costs	£33,300
Church running expenses	£25,200
Parish Centre and Office	£13,500
Mission and ministry*	<u>£8,600</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£172,700</b>

*\*Mission & ministry includes budgeted charitable donations.*

For **2022** we have budgeted **income** as:

Planned Giving Scheme	£111,300
Gift Aid / GASDS ( <i>tax refund</i> )	£28,300
Collections, donations, fund raising	£13,800
Rent, dividends, transfers	£5,000
Weddings & funerals income	<u>£5,300</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£163,700</b>

**Forecast Loss £9,000**



**St Helen's Church  
Abingdon-on-Thames**

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