



*St* HELEN'S CHURCH  
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

November 2021

This year has been difficult in so many ways but, thanks to the support of the members of our Planned Giving Scheme, St Helen's has been able to keep its budget deficit to manageable levels in 2021. Our latest estimate is that the loss on the General Fund (which covers our day-to-day expenditures) may be around £7,000-£8,000.

Of course, any deficit cannot be sustained forever by reducing our reserves, and the indications are that, at current income levels, the deficit could increase again in 2022. Although we are hopeful that more opportunities will become available to open the church and parish centre for external use, most of our income will inevitably still need to come from our generous congregation.

Our main regular cost is the parish share which we pay to the diocese. This will be approximately £92,000 in 2022. This is similar to our payment this year and covers not only the costs of ministry (which is approximately half of the total), but also a contribution to the diocese for support costs and the future development of the church. In terms of our other costs, inflation is expected to rise over the coming year.

We also feel that St Helen's can only extend its mission if it begins to plan for an annual surplus which can then be spent on our priorities. This will not happen in one year, but we plan to move in this direction. More information on our financial position is included in the enclosed Stewardship leaflet. The campaign will run throughout November and we would be grateful if you could either bring the enclosed pledge card to the 10.30 am service on Sunday 28th November or send it to the Parish Office to arrive by Friday 26th November. Further details are also given in the Stewardship leaflet.

Best wishes

**The St Helen's Church DCC and the stewardship team.**