

Property and Stewardship Committee Report for Presbytery 1st December 2020

All Treasurers in Presbytery have been circulated with information on their M&M contribution for 2021, and the amount of contribution received to end November 2020 compared to the agreed full year amount. In addition an offer was made of advice and support from Presbytery for those with financial concerns. Finally they were informed about the creation of the Good Ideas Fund. More recently the anonymised report below from one of our charges has been sent around to encourage similar reports so that we can understand and share how our Presbytery has coped in this difficult year.

Responding to the financial challenge of the lockdown: xxx parish church

Background: xxx is a small charge – it has survived through a measure of careful control and help from presbytery. As recently as ten years ago it had a large reserve fund (£40,000) but most of this was used in manse improvements (heating, decorating, windows, kitchen etc). It now has £7,257 in its Reserve Fund.

Our General Fund budget for the year is a deficit of £1,222.

2020: Our net M&M for 2020 is £18,127 towards which £11,737 has been paid (65%). When the lockdown came in the spring it was clear that as our monthly payments for M&M were made we would be in danger of running out of funds, so I stopped the direct debit in May and made payments to “121” as our funds allowed – hence the £11,737 paid to date.

We are inevitably behind with £6,360 still to pay by the end of December.

In making arrangements to continue our online services through the spring and summer a stewardship approach was made to the community to support the church in this particularly difficult time. There has been some response to that- see below.

The specific effects of the lockdown include:

- Gift aid and direct debit collections - **down £3,000** (some of our members have upped their payments, but some have stopped)
- Open plate – **down £1,000**
- Other donations - up £5,000
- Use of premises - no change (but only because £1,200 was paid from 2019; otherwise that would be down by £1,200)
- Fundraising – **down £2,300** (all of our activities take place from May on so no income)
- Organ supply – **down £1,200**
- Heat & light – **down £1,500**

(figures in red have a negative effect on the balance)

The figure that stands out here is the donation of £5,000 (which is gift-aided). This donation will offset the various minuses and (a) enable the outstanding M&M to be paid by the end of December and (b) for our General Fund to roughly balance by the end of the year. The prospects for 2021 are yet to be considered.

It is hoped that these details will help Presbytery by showing how one congregation has managed (or otherwise)

Treasurer
18/11/20

Our communication has encouraged 4 applications to the Good Ideas Fund. These have been shared with the Property & Stewardship Committee(PSC) before being brought to Presbytery. However it is proposed that in future a small sub-committee under the PSC administer such grants. It will be chaired by the Moderator of Presbytery, and will consist of the Presbytery Treasurer and Representatives from Finance, Mission and Governance Committees. In the current year the representative for Mission will be Graeme Donald who will also act as Administrative Member.

Deliverance:

1. Presbytery receives the Report.
2. Presbytery encourages Congregations to share their 2020 experiences in dealing with their finances with Presbytery.
3. Presbytery approves the formation of a sub-committee under the Property and Stewardship Committee to administer the Good Ideas Fund.
4. Presbytery approves the following grants from the Good Ideas Fund:
 - a. A grant of £500 to Selkirk Parish Church to help them towards restarting their Open Door project with a meal delivery service.
 - b. A grant of around £450 to St John's Galashiels to enable them to provide a home delivery of afternoon tea and a devotional book to isolated parishioners.
 - c. A grant of £250 to the Parishes of Upper Tweeddale towards their drive-in Christmas Concerts.
 - d. A grant of £500 to St Andrews Leckie, Peebles, to support their youth worker bringing around 20 young people together in a safe socially-distanced way at Broomlee Outdoor Education Centre in West Linton.

26th November 2020