

PARISH OF ST ANTHONY AND ST MARK



PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2023

I am pleased to be able to provide my first Financial Report to you now that the Parish Financial Return for the year January to December 2023 has been completed and submitted to the Diocese. I have followed the previous custom of providing a “snapshot” of the information contained in the full Financial Return which will hopefully provide you with a helpful overview of the financial situation in the parish in an easy-to-read format.

INCOME

As you know, our main income comes from the Offertory Collections from the Parishioners at both St Anthony’s and St Mark’s Churches. For the year to the end of December 2023, this amount totalled £121,521.57. This includes all payments made as part of the Gift Aid scheme, whether paid through the bank or by envelope. It also includes monies paid via the Diocese which are passed on to us. This total represents an increase of over £3,000.00 on last year which is a great achievement, particularly during a period when many people are struggling with finances. HMRC made Tax repayments on Gift Aid of £20,729.06 for the financial year to April 2023. This is an excellent source of additional income for parishes, and thanks go to all those UK Taxpayers who are members of the Gift Aid scheme.

Other income came from stall sales, donations etc. In addition, interest from the Diocese on savings in the Parochial Investment Fund (PiF) and the Parochial Aid Fund (PaF) totalling £422.61 was received. The total received from parishioners for Special Collections was £ 18,756.26 which represents an increase of over £2000.00 on last year. Thank you for your continued generosity to these collections. Our income from Hall rental at both St Anthony’s and St Mark’s parish halls provided £7,255.00, so thanks go to those involved in ensuring we can continue to offer our parish halls for use to the wider community. Additional Income, for example, for Parish Outings etc, which was paid out again for tickets and transport, brought the Total Income for the year to **£227,772.97**.

EXPENDITURE

The costs of running the parish in 2023 are set out overleaf:

House Management, that is, the day to day running of both Chapel Houses, including repairs and maintenance, totalled £12,198.55. Church Management, including repairs and maintenance as well as expenditure on the stall and Divine Service (communion breads and wine, candles etc) totalled £ 59,032.39 for both churches and which included over £40,000.00 for repairs and maintenance. Grounds Management, including regular gardening as well as maintenance of the grounds for both Churches, for example, white lines on car parks and improvement to driveway at St Mark's Chapel House, totalled £22,975.96. Office Management, furnishings and equipment, printing costs and bank charges total £5949.53. Our responsibility to support the Diocese is met through the Parish Levy (based on income from the previous year) and in 2023 this was £35,498.72.

The biggest outgoings were in respect of General Parish Management. This included, for example, Telephone costs of ££1,595.60; Salaries and NI contributions of £4,141.60; Heat and Light for both houses and churches of £29,027.01 which was an **increase of over £12,000.00 on last year**. Council Tax of £ 2,525.43 and Annual Insurance for the Parish Estate of £8,278.47 means that our total expenditure on General Parish management was £69,955.61. Total Expenditure for the year was **£231,648.04**.

As you can see, the Parish continues to spend slightly more than we are receiving in income. This is because we are continuing to improve the fabric of the parish estate as a whole, and we are also subject to the same economic pressures as others, for example, increases in the cost of fuel. Having said this, the Parish continues to maintain a good level of savings and we are using these to bring both parishes up to standard. We have also been fortunate, in terms of donations and grants which, for example, enabled us to install a new boiler in St Anthony's at no cost to the parish. Our newly reformed Parish Fabric Committee is working hard to identify and prioritise all future works this year, including meeting our statutory requirements in terms of Health & Safety and Disability Access issues.

This note is a summary of Income and Expenditure for 2023. If you wish to inspect the full Financial Return, or if you have any questions regarding this information, please speak to me or contact the Parish Office, and I will be pleased to help. If you would prefer to receive this information, either through another medium or in another format, I will be happy to consider your views.

My sincere thanks go to everyone in the Parish for their continued support in all of the work we do, and the financial commitments being made to the Church in these challenging economic times.

Fr Stephen
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