

PARISH OF ST ANTHONY AND ST MARK

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024

I am pleased to be able to provide the Financial Report to you now that the Parish Financial Return for the year January to December 2024 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 2024, this amount totalled £127,281.52. 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 almost £6,000 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 £18,178.79 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. This year’s Gift Aid total is down by around £2,000 which underlines the importance of gaining new members, so if you’d like to sign up, you can take a Gift Aid form from the back of the church.

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 £1,999.30 was received. The total received from parishioners for Special Collections was £14,326.18. 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 £5,335.00, so thanks go to those involved in ensuring we can continue to offer our parish halls for use to the wider community as well as the parish. Additional Income, for example, rental for St Anthony’s from the Syro Malabar community brought the Total Income for the year to **£275,455.05**.

EXPENDITURE

The costs of running the parish in 2024 are set out below:

House Management, that is, the day to day running of both Chapel Houses, including repairs and maintenance, totalled £7,685.97.

Church Management, including repairs and maintenance as well as expenditure on the stall and Divine Service (communion breads and wine, candles etc) totalled £41,684.29 for both churches and which included over £22,000 for repairs and maintenance. This latter may seem high, but the majority (£14,000) was to complete

the payment of the new boiler work at St Anthony's, while most of the rest was spent on carpeting St Mark's church.

Grounds Management, including regular gardening as well as maintenance of the grounds for both Churches, totalled £10,671.04. Again, this may seem high, but it reflects the unusual circumstances of our fence being crashed into and demolished twice by cars within a few months: fortunately, this money was recovered via two insurance claims.

Office Management, furnishings and equipment, printing costs and bank charges total £1,269.18. Our responsibility to support the Diocese is met through the Parish Levy (based on income from the previous year) and in 2024 this was £37,527.70

The biggest outgoings were in respect of General Parish Management. This included, for example, Telephone costs of £2,430.36; Salaries and NI contributions of £9,469.81; Heat and Light for both houses and churches of £21,344.80 which was a **decrease of over £7,500 on last year**. Council Tax of £ 2,587.55 and Annual Insurance for the Parish Estate of £9,181.18 means that our total expenditure on General Parish management was £59,737.51. Total Expenditure for the year was **£266,829.81**.

As you can see, thankfully the Parish continues to receive in income a little more than we spend: this should always be the case, so that we can build up funds for future major works which may arise. The annual surplus also reflects the generosity of individual donors who have funded e.g. the secondary glazing and destratification fans at St Mark's. The Parish continues to maintain a good level of savings and we are using these to improve the fabric of the parish estate, thanks to the work of the Parish Fabric Committee. This group continues to work hard to identify and prioritise all future works, including meeting our statutory requirements in terms of Health & Safety and Disability Access issues.

This note is a summary of Income and Expenditure for 2024. 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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