



Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church

Financial Report

2020

Parish Priest, Fr. Harry Curtis.
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Our Lady Help of Christians Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered Charity Number: 234216

Financial Report 2020

Loan

Until the end of 2020 we were committed to repaying just under £12,500 a year of the loan from the Archdiocese to complete the building and refurbishment work undertaken in 2010. The good news for this report is that this has now been completely paid during the last year.

Offertories

The income to the church from offertory collections was badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdowns. We are most grateful to parishioners for continuing to make donations by standing order and also to those who have made sure that their weekly offerings have continued. As a result of parishioners using gift aid numbered envelopes or standing orders we were able to reclaim £7,105 from HMRC. Please see overleaf for further details of the Gift Aid Scheme.

Parish Levies

Each year a proportion of our income is taken as a levy by the diocese to pay for services that support parishes around the diocese. These include the Diocesan Education Service, Youth Service, Curial Offices and Safeguarding. This year the levy has been increased substantially to try to cover increased costs within the diocese.

Church Costs

This includes utility bills and liturgical/pastoral expenses. Major expenses were: insurance, £7,234; livestreaming camera, £4,440; repairs to the boiler in the Don Bosco Centre, £819; electrical repairs £2,080; survey of the drains, £750; repair to the fence in car park, £650. There were also unexpected expenses for PPE and cleaning materials.

2021

There is a lot of uncertainty caused by the pandemic and it is difficult to forecast what our income may be. Expenses have been reduced as much as possible but we are still looking at a large potential deficit for the coming year. Times are very difficult for everybody financially at the moment but we need to ask everyone to be as generous as they can in their support of our church this year. As well as day to day expenses, we have just paid £5,230 for repairs to the roof and we are expecting to have major expenses for the drains. We shall also need to consider major work on the church tower. To help us to raise funds there will be a monthly second collection starting in June.

Thank you to everyone for your kindness and generosity over the last twelve months. Thank you to the members of the parish finance committee who oversee the management of income, expenditure and our accountability to the diocese.

Receipts/Payments 2020

	2020	2019	2021 (Forecast)
Loan from Diocese - Opening Balance 1st January	£7,292.42	£19,792.64	£0.00
Loan from Diocese - Closing Balance 31st December	£0.00	£7,152.72	£0.00
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Receipts to 31st December			
Offertories - Gift Aid	£20,293.12	£24,277.45	£20,000.00
Offertories - Non Gift Aid GASDS eligible	£7,247.58	£19,621.13	£7,000.00
Offertories - Non Gift Aid NOT eligible for GASDS	£4,117.00	£3,809.55	£4,000.00
Legacy	£20,742.00	£0.00	£2,091.25
Donations - Gift Aid	£50.00	£2,000.00	£0.00
Donations - Non Gift Aid	£4,996.08	£4,238.32	£3,000.00
Donations - on line via Archdiocesan Website	£170.88	£0.00	£0.00
Gift Aid/GASDS Tax Claims Received	£7,105.05	£8,022.45	£5,000.00
Votive Candles	£686.06	£2,296.87	£500.00
Repository	£363.15	£1,329.01	£500.00
Newspapers	£45.00	£293.20	£0.00
Don Bosco Centre	£1,855.00	£5,225.00	£1,000.00
Total Receipts	£67,670.92	£71,112.98	£43,091.25
Payments to 31st December			
Church/Don Bosco Centre	£26,325.05	£25,442.06	£25,100.00
House	£5,762.44	£5,018.40	£7,000.00
Clergy Expenses/Supply	£2,529.31	£5,438.85	£1,596.00
Office Expenses and Personnel/Wages	£11,611.81	£11,538.08	£14,700.00
Parish Levies	£14,794.47	£15,365.42	£16,111.68
Parish Donations	£525.00	£890.00	£300.00
Votive Candles	£220.36	£870.98	£220.00
Repository	£271.52	£646.77	£500.00
Newspapers	£0.00	£246.18	£0.00
Interest paid/bank charges	£196.45	£245.94	£200.00
Total Payments	£62,236.41	£65,702.68	£65,727.68
Surplus/(deficit) on normal activity	£5,434.51	£5,410.30	(22,636.43)
Less repayments made to Diocesan Loan	£7,292.42	£12,639.92	£0.00
Surplus/(Deficit) after loan repayments	(1,857.91)	(7,229.62)	(22,636.43)
Bank Statement Balance at 31st December	£14,225.11	£15,861.11	

Our Parish – How can I help?

Gift Aid – Learn how you can give more to the Church through a tax rebate.

Dear Parishioners

I know that we all appreciate our beautiful church and all that goes on around it. I thank you all for your generosity especially over the last year when things have been very difficult for many. But it takes a lot of money to run a parish and so I must ask you to think about the financial support that you give to Our Lady Help of Christians.

There is a way to give more money without it coming out of your pocket. As a charity we are able to claim money back from the government at no cost to yourselves under the Gift Aid scheme. The Gift Aid scheme works if you are a UK taxpayer and are paying more in tax than we can reclaim from HMRC. Your contribution would be completely flexible week by week depending on your financial circumstances. You can give in the weekly collections by using the Gift Aid envelopes or you can set up a standing order. You can leave the scheme at any time should you so wish.

The Parish benefits as it can claim tax relief from the government i.e. for every £1 you give, the Parish will receive a further 25p from the government (please make sure that you have paid at least as much tax as we are claiming back because HMRC will hold you responsible to pay any excess). Many parishioners in the Parish already support this scheme and I am extremely grateful to them.

Last year we received £7,105 back from HMRC. This money helps pay some big bills such as £14,794 per year parish levies and £26,325 for Church costs.

In the coming year the parish levy is going to increase to £16,111 and there will also be large expenses for the repair of the roof and the drains. I would therefore ask you to consider joining the Gift Aid scheme with effect from April 2021.

What you need to know about Gift Aid:

- *It's a real help to the Parish.*
- *It is a confidential scheme.*
- *You do not have to promise to give a certain amount of money.*
- *There are no details of earnings needed.*

If you feel you can support the scheme please fill in a Gift Aid Declaration Form, available from Geraldine Griffin, Parish Secretary, Email: olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk, Tel: 01865 770 910, or you can download a copy from the parish website [Donations and Gift Aid | Our Lady Help of Christians - Cowley - Oxford \(olhoccowley.co.uk\)](http://DonationsandGiftAid|OurLadyHelpofChristians-Cowley-Oxford(olhoccowley.co.uk)).

Thank you and please help us if you can.

Fr. Harry Curtis