



Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church

Financial Report

2021

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Our Lady Help of Christians Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered Charity Number: 234216

Financial Report 2021

Offertories

The income to the church from offertory collections is still being 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. It is a real help in our planning to know that there is a guaranteed income from standing orders. Gift aided offerings have fallen during the last year and we would like to make a fresh appeal to ask you to join the gift aid scheme if you can (please see overleaf for further details).

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.

Church Costs

Any householder will know that all costs have been increasing considerably and that applies to the church as well. We have tried to reduce our expenses as much as we can but there have been large bills for insurance, (£2,925); utility bills (electricity, £2,646; gas, £528); liturgical/pastoral expenses, (£2,876). Other major expenses this year were for a CCTV system, (£1,660) and repairs to the roof (£5,230).

Donations to the Parish

One of the great success stories of the last year was your very generous response to our appeal for the roof and drains fund. Drains are never a romantic or attractive subject. Nevertheless your quick and generous response meant that we raised £8,505 (of which £3,151 was gift aided) in the course of the year. Thank you very much indeed.

2022

It's always difficult to make predictions, but it is safe to say that our expenses are going to rise during this year. Utility prices are predicted to rise by some eye-watering amounts in the coming months. We are also going to have major work done on the drains and the church tower which you have already generously given money for. Times continue to be 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. We will do our best to keep expenses down, but to help us to raise funds there will be a monthly second collection starting in March. The fund raising team are starting to plan a series of fun events and more details will follow.

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 2021

	2021	2020	2022 (Forecast)
Loan from Diocese - Opening Balance 1st January	£0.00	£7,292.42	£0.00
Loan from Diocese - Balance 31st December	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Receipts to 31st December			
Offertories - Gift Aid	£19,471.85	£20,293.12	£18,000.00
Offertories - Non Gift Aid GASDS eligible	£10,925.11	£7,247.58	£10,000.00
Offertories - Non Gift Aid NOT eligible for GASDS	£5,903.31	£4,117.00	£6,000.00
Legacy	£2,091.25	£20,742.00	£0.00
Donations - Gift Aid	£3,151.00	£50.00	£2,000.00
Donations - Non Gift Aid	£6,201.97	£4,996.08	£3,000.00
Donations - on line via Archdiocesan Website	£1,115.02	£170.88	£1,000.00
Roof & Drains Appeal	£4,995.04	£0.00	£0.00
Fund Raising	£359.70	£0.00	£500.00
Gift Aid/GASDS Tax Claims	£95.18	£7,105.05	£12,500.00
Votive Candles	£637.45	£686.06	£1,000.00
Repository	£779.14	£363.15	£800.00
Newspapers	£0.00	£45.00	£0.00
Don Bosco Centre	£760.00	£1,855.00	£3,000.00
Car Park Income	£480.00	£0.00	£3,410.00
Total Receipts	£56,966.02	£67,670.92	£61,210.00
Payments to 31st December			
Church/Don Bosco Centre	£22,478.08	£26,325.05	£28,000.00
House	£6,911.78	£5,762.44	£8,000.00
Clergy Expenses/Supply	£1,732.00	£2,529.31	£2,000.00
Office Expenses and Personnel/Wages	£15,491.28	£11,611.81	£17,000.00
Parish Levies	£16,721.68	£14,794.47	£13,000.00
Fund Raising Expenses	£40.00	£0.00	£100.00
Parish Donations	£565.00	£525.00	£600.00
Votive Candles	£0.00	£220.36	£500.00
Repository	£302.76	£271.52	£500.00
Newspapers	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Interest Paid/Bank Charges	£204.98	£196.45	£200.00
Total Payments	£64,447.56	£62,236.41	£69,900.00
Surplus/(deficit) on normal activity	(7,481.54)	£5,434.51	(8,690.00)
Less repayments made to Diocesan Loan	£0.00	£7,292.42	£0.00
Surplus/(Deficit) after loan repayments	(7,481.54)	(1,857.91)	(8,690.00)
Bank Statement Balance at 31st December	-£24,540.95	-£14,225.11	

Here's a riddle: how can you give more money to our parish without it costing you any more?

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 Parish benefits as it can claim tax relief from the government i.e. for every £10.00 you give, the Parish will receive a further £2.50 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. I would ask you all to consider joining the Gift Aid scheme with effect from April 2022, please.

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.

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://Donations%20and%20Gift%20Aid%20|%20Our%20Lady%20Help%20of%20Christians%20-%20Cowley%20-%20Oxford%20(olhoccowley.co.uk)).

Thank you and please support our parish community as much as you can.

Fr. Harry Curtis