



Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church

Financial Report

2022

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

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Offertories

Thank you to all parishioners for your generosity in the offertory collections. There has been a slight increase in the gift aid offertory collections and a large increase in the non-gift aid offertory collections. This is a great help making sure that the parish can move forward with confidence.

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.

Legacies

Our faith is at the centre of our daily lives and the work of our parish is generously supported in many practical ways. I should like to invite you to consider leaving a legacy to Our Lady's in your Will. A simple legacy gift is a good way of continuing your generosity to the parish. There are leaflets at the back of church which can help you to do this.

Church Costs

You don't need me to tell you how much the energy bills increased in 2022, and the church doesn't have the benefit of the cap that has been put on domestic households. This means we are looking at some eye watering invoices after this winter. That is why the church and house expenses were up so much last year and will be up again this year. During the year we also had work done on the drains and the church tower.

Fund Raising

Thanks are very much due to the members of the fund-raising committee who organised events through the year to raise money and which also helped to bring us together as a community. The fund-raising committee are starting to plan a series of further events and more details will follow, but they would appreciate more volunteers to help them in their efforts, please.

2023

I have already mentioned how the energy prices are set to increase. Besides that, the parish finance committee have identified a major project for the coming year: to renovate the wooden floor in the church. We shall be launching an appeal for this after Easter. A separate project will be to repair the kneelers and pews.

Times continue to be very difficult for everybody financially, but I need to ask everyone to be as generous as you can in your support of our church this year, please. We will do our best to keep expenses down.

Some specific ways you might like to support the parish finances might be:

- To sponsor the live streaming of services from Our Lady's for £30.00 a week.
- To pay £5.00 for a candle to burn for a week beside the tabernacle or one of the statues in the church.
- To contribute to the cost of flowers in the church each week. Or to give your time as new volunteers to help are always welcome.

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 2022

	2022	2021	2023 (Forecast)
Receipts to 31st December			
Offertories - Gift Aid	£20,184.13	£19,471.85	£20,000.00
Offertories - Non Gift Aid GASDS eligible	£16,559.12	£10,925.11	£15,000.00
Offertories - Non Gift Aid NOT eligible for GASDS	£6,004.00	£5,903.31	£6,000.00
Legacy	£0.00	£2,091.25	£0.00
Donations - Gift Aid	£100.00	£3,151.00	£0.00
Donations - Non Gift Aid	£6,759.69	£5,306.40	£5,000.00
Donations - on line via Archdiocesan Website	£1,346.00	£1,115.02	£1,000.00
Roof & Drains Appeal	£0.00	£4,995.04	£0.00
Fund Raising	£1,250.65	£359.70	£1,500.00
Gift Aid/GASDS Tax Claims	£11,564.35	£95.18	£8,500.00
External Grants - Furlough Payments	£0.00	£895.57	£0.00
Votive Candles	£1,591.95	£637.45	£1,600.00
Repository	£944.81	£779.14	£1,000.00
Don Bosco Centre	£4,281.50	£760.00	£4,000.00
Car Park Income	£2,482.00	£480.00	£2,500.00
Total Receipts	£73,068.20	£56,966.02	£66,100.00
Payments to 31st December			
Church/Don Bosco Centre	£23,545.69	£22,478.08	£30,000.00
House	£8,834.83	£6,911.78	£10,000.00
Clergy Expenses/Supply	£2,768.00	£1,732.00	£3,000.00
Office Expenses and Personnel/Wages	£15,410.04	£15,491.28	£17,000.00
Parish Levies	£12,044.80	£16,721.68	£12,000.00
Fund Raising Expenses	£0.00	£40.00	£100.00
Parish Donations	£480.00	£565.00	£600.00
Votive Candles	£703.50	£0.00	£800.00
Repository	£710.97	£302.76	£800.00
Interest Paid/Bank Charges	£426.30	£204.98	£600.00
Total Payments	£64,924.13	£64,447.56	£74,900.00
Surplus/(deficit) on normal activity	£8,144.07	-£7,481.54	-£8,800.00
Bank Statement Balance at 31st December	-£16,779.39	-£24,540.95	

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 2023, 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 and Gift Aid | Our Lady Help of Christians - Cowley - Oxford (olhoccowley.co.uk)).

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

Fr. Harry Curtis