

20th October 2019

Dear Parishioners,

We are now well into the new school year and half term is upon us already. As part of our review of parish life and together with the Parish Finance committee, I thought it would be a good moment to just give you all an update where we are in terms of the Parish income and expenses. I also, wanted to bring you up to date with the Growing In Faith contributions that so many of you made and to update you on where that money has been spent. As well as all that to give you a broad outline of our expenditure for the year ending August 2018.

I would first of all like to thank all of you who have been supporting Ealing Abbey Parish over so many years. Your contribution has enabled us to be the Parish that we are. Your contribution also enables to continue to support the vibrant sacramental and pastoral life of the Parish. Thank you all for your enduring generosity and kindness. We greatly appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness in sharing what you have with the parish.

Growing in Faith (GIF) - Projects

As you will remember Westminster Diocese began a fundraising campaign called Growing in Faith in 2013. Abbot Martin was Parish Priest during this time. A Big thank you to the many parishioners who donated and pledged money to the Diocesan campaign for the following 5 years. The 5 years are now up. In total those donations amounted to £461,961. Of this total, 20% is available for the parish to request for particular projects.

From this 20% amounting to £92,392 (2018-£79,000), we have carried out the following projects to the Church and Parish House -

In 2014 - we installed a badly needed new Sound System. This was followed up between 2016 and 2017 investing in a new heating system by installing the new Boilers which heat the Church.

Then between 2018-9 - we put a new roof on the Parish Centre which was badly leaking and in much need of replacement.

And finally, this year, 2019, - the Growing In Faith money has been used to carry out long overdue refurbishment of the Parish House. This involved the re-plastering of ceilings in two of the rooms, painting, rediscovering and sanding etc. the wooden floors in the Dominic Young room and the hall. We also purchased new furniture for the increased use of these rooms for meetings and other parish events. Growing In Faith money has also been used for the care of the sick and elderly monks of the monastery and the formation of monks. We have now used all the money that we are entitled to from the Growing In Faith Fund. Many thanks to those parishioners whose generosity has enabled these projects to be completed.

The Parish also received a very generous donation of £6,000 specifically to contribute to the refurbishment of the Parish House. We are very grateful for this donation too.

Ealing Abbey Parish forms part of the overall Ealing Abbey Trust. And as such the Parish benefits from this relationship. This impacts on an ongoing basis but has been particularly beneficial when managing the projects that we have just completed. In practice what this has meant is, that we could start immediately on these projects. The initial cost was covered by Ealing Abbey Trust and then reclaimed when the period for requesting GIF funds was live.

Other Costs:

Over the last couple of years we have received a number of legacies and we are very grateful that parishioners have wanted to support the work of Ealing Abbey Parish. This fund has enabled the purchase of

the following - of 2 new more appropriate Parish Noticeboards. These will replace the one at the front of the Parish House and the other at the top of the lane on Montpelier Avenue. Both are in need of replacing.

Due to the increasing workload of the Parish Office in January 2019 we increased the hours of the Parish Secretary Maggi Curtin. She is now full time. To underline our commitment to Safeguarding in the Parish, we allocated 5 hours of these hours to support the administration aspects of Safeguarding.

In September 2018 with the appointment of the new Catechetical Coordinator, Daniel Ferguson we increased the hours of the position from 20 to 30 hours. Part of the First Holy Communion programme was previously coordinated by a volunteer for the last 15 years. It was felt to be quite a huge responsibility to ask and find another person willing to take it on. The Parish is very grateful to Christine Nevard for her dedication and willingness to carry out the position for those 15 years.

Our Pastoral Coordinator, Krysia Carr, works 23 hours a week. As well as working with groups and individuals in the parish, Krysia also supports outside callers to the office, in need of advice. Her work often involves liaising with social Services and Ealing Council; with the local branches of our homeless charities such as St Mungo's, Emmaus House, St. Johns Soup Kitchen and Ealing Winter Night Shelter, as well as our local conference of St Vincent de Paul. All of this forms a key part of how we, as a parish community, reach out to and care for the most vulnerable members of our community.

and expertise to support the financial administrative running of the parish.

As well as this, parishioners are actively involved in a variety of groups which care for the community on a local, national and international scale: from St Vincent De Paul Society, Afternoon club for our Senior

Citizens; Justice & Peace; Aid to the Church in Need, to name but a few. This is just a snap shot of all that is happening in the parish.

I would like to thank the members of the Parish Finance committee for their continued commitment and dedication in the giving of their time I would also like to thank Sharon Daly, Lay Bursar for Ealing Abbey Trust, who prepared the Financial Report presentation for the bulletin and the support, dedication and professionalism that she is to the Parish.

I thank too Geraldine Nelson who runs the Finance Office of Ealing Abbey Trust for her dedication and diligence in looking after the Parish finances over so many years. The Parish is very grateful to them both for their hard work and commitment.

As we move into a new decade and a new era in parish life, we face a lot of challenges. The cost of running the parish and not only maintaining the services we are currently providing, but also managing the future requires more and more support.

If you feel moved to get involved in any way or indeed have suggestions on how we can improve any aspect of parish life, please do contact me via email parishoffice@ealingabbey.org.uk or 020 8862 2160.

We need your support, your expertise, and your prayers to enable Ealing Abbey Parish to continue to be the vibrant, lively and active parish community that it is.

Thank you all for the contributions you make. May God bless you all and protect and guide all that you do!

Fr Ambrose OSB, Parish Priest
17th October 2019

Parish of St. Benedict, Ealing Abbey

Ealing Abbey is your parish, a large diverse and active parish which nourishes the sacramental and spiritual life of the parishioners, with nearly one and a half thousand people attending services on a Sunday. The parish also promotes a wide range of well attended catechetical and social activities aimed at all age groups.

Financial Report (from audited Financial Statements to August 2018)

Parish income in 2018 was £368,000 analysed as:

Parish Income year ended 31/08/2018

■ Offertory

■ Votives

■ Stole Fees

OFFERINGS FOR WEDDINGS, FUNERALS AND BAPTISMS

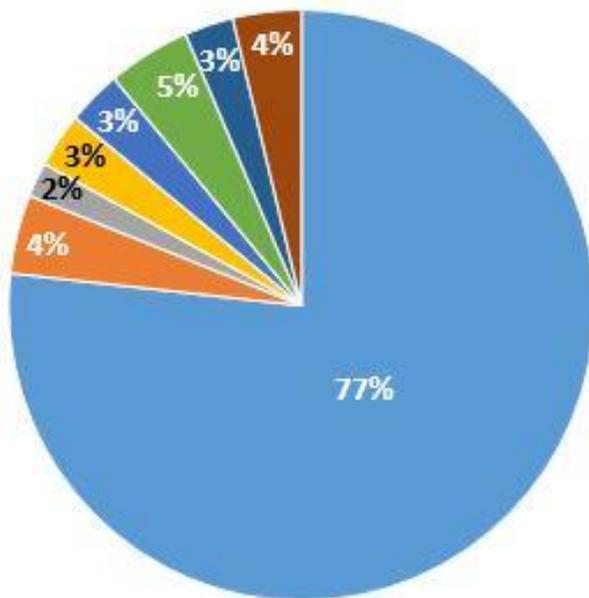
■ Catechetics and Marriage Course

■ Restricted -poor

■ Room hire and Miscellaneous

■ Donations

■ Growing In Faith

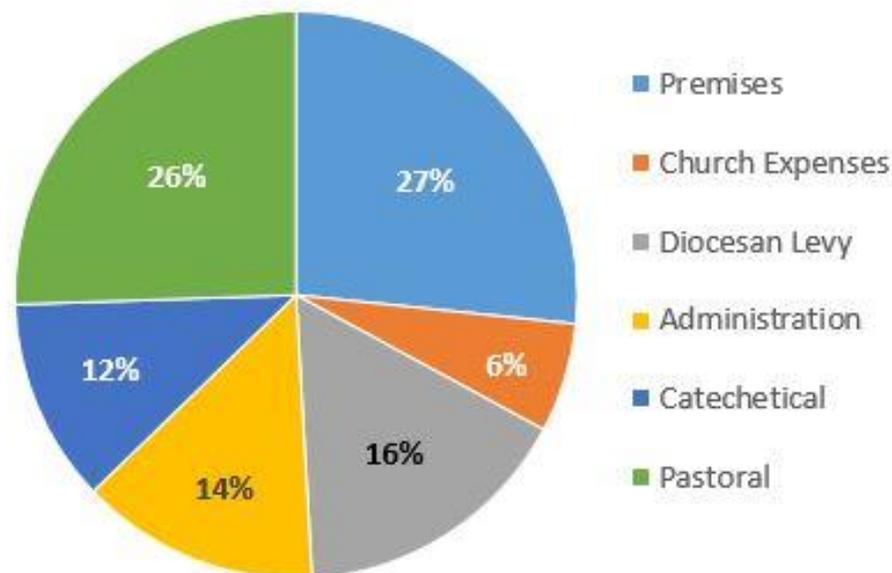


The weekly offertory is the main source of Parish Income and this has seen a 10% decrease over the last three years. For the last three years we have additionally received income from the Diocese from the Growing in Faith campaign. £79,000 has been received from Growing in Faith and this has paid for much needed improvements to the heating system and sound system as well as repairs to the parish centre roof and a necessary update to the Parish Offices. This has been very welcome; however the campaign comes to a close in 2019.

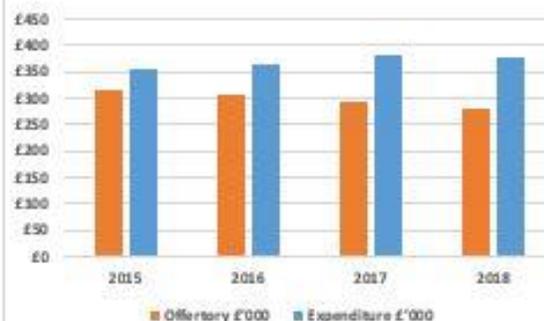
As part of the Diocese we contribute towards its running costs and this forms one of the largest parts of our expenditure via the Diocesan Levy and Clergy Support. Other expenditure is tightly controlled and monitored.

Parish expenditure for 2018 was £379,000 analysed as:

Parish Expenditure



Parish Offertory Income and Expenditure



Income and Expenditure Trends

The trend is that our offertory income is decreasing at an average rate of 3% a year whilst expenditure is increasing at an average rate of 2% a year.

Expenditure is already tightly controlled so the parish must look to increase its income to balance the accounts and provide funds for future projects. All income streams are being reviewed.

Currently, 56% of offertory donations are gift aided. **If everyone gift aided we could raise another £27,000.** If you pay UK tax please consider signing up to gift aid so that we can claim an extra 25% at no additional cost to you.

In addition as the Growing in Faith appeal draws to a close we would ask that Parishioners, who generously signed up to that campaign, consider now extending their donation directly to the Parish through planned giving.

Please do consider this, it will make a real difference and enable the parish to continue with the wide ranging programme of both spiritual and community activities.

If every parishioner could give an extra £1 a week we could clear the deficit between our offertory income and our expenditure. Please consider this if your circumstances allow.