

CHURCH MEETING JULY 2022

FINANCE – DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

This report has been sent to you so that you can give prayerful consideration to God's leading in preparation for the Church Meeting on 26th July 2022.

Your Treasurer reports:

I'm aware that finance can be difficult for some of us to understand, and I'm equally aware that we have been very fortunate over recent years to have remained 'in funds' without having to think about it too much. Since the pandemic I have been telling Deacons and church meetings that finances have become much tighter, and unfortunately, we have now come to the time when we all need to sit up and take notice of the position we see looming in the near future.

In spite of our hopes and prayers that the church's income would gradually return to previous levels as the country opened up post pandemic, that has not happened so far, and we probably have only six months to do something about it.

As things stand, our **monthly costs are running at about £5,200**, including donations as follows:

Home Mission	£200
World Mission	£200
Haverhill Youth for Christ	£100
Conroy Rendon (House of Joshua)	£105
Retired Baptist Ministers' Housing Org.	£20

TOTAL MONTHLY DONATIONS	£625
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<u>And our total monthly income is about</u>	<u>£4,500</u>
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Leaving us with a monthly deficit of at least	£700
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For the rest of this year, the General Fund balance in hand is sufficient to cover this deficit.

BUT we cannot go forward into 2023 with such a shortfall, as we would be rapidly eating into our Contingency Fund, and swiftly get to a position where we would not be able to pay our Minister or meet our energy bills.

WHAT CAN BE DONE? The problem can be solved, but it will require our joint commitment on all fronts, both financial and practical.

SOME IDEAS

1. Resume 'passing the plate' on Sunday mornings. Pre-Covid this raised more or less 50% of offerings. Currently only 20 to 25%
2. Review your personal giving. The church is extremely grateful that many of us have already done this.
3. Resume fundraising events such as 'Books & Butties', Christmas Bazaar, and invent a few more. These events are also important outreach activities.
4. Introduce an annual Gift Day – not for a specific project as we did recently, but for general running costs.

Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours." ~ [*St. Teresa of Avila*](#)