

Treasurer's Report to the APCM 29/04/2018

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £239,327. £108,931 was from tax efficient givers to the Church Giving Fund, plus other planned giving of £3,422. Tax recoverable from Gift Aid amounted to £28,984. Collections taken in church produced £20,214, some of which was gift aided.

£216,140 was spent on the Christian Ministry of St Michael's Church. Of this £100,785 related to the Diocesan Quota and £19,584 was given to different charities at home and abroad. The balance represents the cost of running the church and the St Michael's share of the Windhill Churches Centre. Additionally, £7,000 was transferred from the General Fund to the Repairs Fund.

In 2016, £24,478 was funded by the Church Improvement Fund to cover the overspend of the Organ refurbishment. This year the balance of the Organ Appeal account stands at £4,046 and this sum will be transferred to the Church Improvement Fund in 2018. There are further donations being received in 2018 and these are also gift aided. We anticipate that the Organ Appeal account will be closed in December 2018 and final adjustments will be made.

During 2017 some fund raising took place towards the Bells refurbishment and this increased the Bell Fund to £10,523, an increase of £4,221.

Our reserves have been carefully invested and an original sum of £225,000 set aside as an endowment for the benefit of the WCC is with the CBF Church of England Investment Fund - Income Shares, the market value at the end of December was £299,233. A further £80,000 was invested in the COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund - Income Units, this was valued at £99,344 at the same date.

24 Apton Road is valued in our fixed assets at a cost of £67,828. We believe the current market value is in excess of £450,000.

Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF)

St Michael's (Bishop's Stortford) PCC (PB2014) participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. The Scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the schemes separately from those of the employer and the other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has a section known as the Defined Benefits Scheme, a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic and a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

The Pension Builder Scheme of the Church Workers Pension Fund is made up of two sections, Pension Builder Classic and Pension Builder 2014, both of which are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension for members for payment from retirement, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Bonuses may also be declared, depending upon the investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum that members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. This account may have bonuses added by the Board before retirement. The bonuses depend on investment experience and other factors. There is no requirement for the Board to grant any bonuses. The account, plus any bonuses declared, is payable from members' Normal Pension Age.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are contributions payable (2017: £428 and 2016: £202).

A valuation of the scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent scheme valuation completed was carried out as at 31 December 2013. This revealed, on the ongoing assumptions used, a surplus of £0.5m. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

Pension Builder 2014 will be valued in relation to the lump sum payable to members at normal pension age. There are no annual pension benefits. Pension Builder 2014 commenced in February 2014 so the first full valuation of that section will be carried out at the next CWPF valuation date, 31 December 2016.

Reserves Policy

The PCC has formulated the following policy, relating to our reserves.

1. The cash maintained on the PCC's main account should be £50,000 minimum.
2. Annual transfers should be made to the Property Repairs Fund (£7,000) and the WCC Dilapidations Fund (£1,500).
3. An Endowment Fund of £225,000 should be maintained to provide an income to assist with the outgoings on the WCC.
4. The above policies will be reviewed annually by the Finance Committee.