

Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill-on-Sea
St Mary Magdalene & St Martha's
Income v Expenditure 2019 v 2020 v 2021

Income:	2019	2020		2021		20	(19)
			From 19		From		
1st Collection							
Offertory	66,067	54,073	↓	46,518		↓	↓
Offertory GASDS	45,485	24,628	↓	21,523		↓	↓
Christmas	7,044	5,070	↓	6,517		↑	↓
Easter	6,669	2,880	↓	4,788		↑	↓
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>127,284</i>	<i>86,651</i>	↓	<i>79,346</i>		↓	↓
Parish 2nd Collection							
Second Collection	2,996	5,070	↑	3,578		↓	↑
Second GASDS	4,003	1,131	↓	1,889		↑	↓
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>6,999</i>	<i>6,170</i>	↓	<i>5,467</i>		↓	↓
Other Income							
Mass / Stole Offerings	9,866	8,910	↓	12,157		↑	↑
Legacies	0	0	-	36,000		-	↑
Gift Aid	26,166	21,586	↓	25,946		↓	↓
Donations	7,098	13,820	↑	2,340		↓	↓
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>43,130</i>	<i>44,316</i>	↑	<i>76,443</i>		↑	↑
Commercial Income							
Repository	1,598	408	↓	92		↓	↓
Votive Candles	4,185	834	↓	598		↓	↓
Rents	22,463	5,309	↓	6,085		↑	↓
Investments	40	27	↓	27		-	↓
Insurance	0	0	-	8,099		-	↑
Sundry	1,946	1,720	↓	3,400		↑	↑
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>30,232</i>	<i>8,298</i>	↓	<i>18,301</i>		↑	↓
Total	£ 207,645	145,432	↓	179,557		↑	↓

Expenditure:	2019	2020		2021		
			From 19	From	20	(19)
Faith Advancement						
Liturgy & Pastoral	25,419	7,861	↓	3,045	↓	↓
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>25,419</i>	<i>7,861</i>	↓	<i>3,045</i>	↓	↓
Personnel						
Staff	52,698	23,495	↓	30,071	↑	↓
Clergy	26,809	26,272	↓	26,627	↑	↓
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>79,507</i>	<i>49,767</i>	↓	<i>56,698</i>	↑	↓
Establishment						
Domestic	6,528	10,829	↑	13,804	↑	↑
Office	10,095	6,864	↓	5,049	↓	↓
Gas & Water	23,314	21,382	↓	18,600	↓	↓
Council Tax	904	1,002	↑	4,070	↑	↑
Insurance & License	7,078	5,579	↓	6,363	↑	↓
Maintenance & Equipment	17,319	15,933	↓	28,587	↑	↑
Cleaning (not domestic)	11,883	3,765	↓	665	↓	↓
Travel	1,929	1,137	↓	1,490	↑	↓
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>79,071</i>	<i>66,491</i>	↓	<i>78,628</i>	↑	↓
Transfers						
Bank Charges	0	0		218	↑	↑
Charitable Grants	3,500	800	↓	0	↓	↓
Internal Transfer	-3500	11,521	↑	0	↓	-
Transfer to Diocese	37,638	41,000	↑	28,528	↓	↓
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>37,638</i>	<i>53,321</i>	↑	<i>28,746</i>	↑	↓
Total	£ 221,635	177,440	↓	167,117	↓	↓
Surplus / Deficit	£ -13,990	-32,008		+12,440		

Parish Priest's Statement

The word '*unprecedented*' has been used in many quarters to describe the period of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Indeed, I used that phrase when presenting the accounts for 2020. In many ways, the continued COVID restrictions throughout much of 2021 and the rise of new variants made this year equally challenging.

We began 2021 with boiler issues, with the boilers at St Mary Magdalene Church, Hall, and Presbytery breaking down, along with the boiler in St Martha's church failing at the same time. This happening during the coldest part of the year, when temperatures in the Churches dropped to 5 °C meant that for the month of January, we were unable to have public celebrations of Holy Mass.

Gradually, through the spring and summer the COVID-19 restrictions eased until December brought a new variant and refreshed the unease of people gathering closely together. As such, the obligation to hear Mass in-person on a Sunday remained suspended throughout the whole of 2021, meaning our Mass attendance figures were just under 300 people (pre-COVID, they were at 750).

Restrictions on the use of halls continued, as each parish was advised to have a COVID-policy in line with the guidance provided by our insurance company. St Mary Magdalene had the added issue of a flood, with extensive repairs needed, which have been complicated by the age of the building and its Grade II listed status.

It is remarkable that despite all these challenges we were able to balance the operational budget this year, and end the year with a small surplus, meaning that the bank balance remains in credit, with an end of year total for 2021 of £56,748. This, however, leaves little room for contingency or any unplanned building repairs. Therefore, once again, I repeat the request for all parishioners to review their offertory giving, and if possible, moving to an on-line standing order, which is then gift aided.

With my prayers and best wishes,
Fr Simon Dray, Parish Priest.

Income

In 2021, our overall parish income was up £34,125 from 2020 but remained £28,088 down on 2019 (pre-COVID). Of concern for us, is that our 1st collection (parish offertory) dropped again:

Year	2019	2020	2021			
			From 19	From 20	(19)	(20)
1st Collection						
Offertory	66,067	54,073	↓	46,518	↓	↓
Offertory GASDS	45,485	24,628	↓	21,523	↓	↓

With other income, it was a generous legacy from an estate that kept the overall income up and saved us from further financial concern this year. Despite the lack of rents from halls, we were able to bring in some revenue towards the end of 2021 at St Martha's, as the Syro-Malabar Catholics pay rent on the use of the Church for Masses. We are also still receiving payment from the Primary School for the use of the old parish Nursery building.

Gift Aid continues to bring in a significant additional income for the parish but was slightly lower due to the suppressed offertory giving.

Year	2019	2020	2021			
			From 19	From 20	(19)	(20)
Legacies	0	0	-	36,000	-	↑
Gift Aid	26,166	21,586	↓	25,946	↓	↓
Rents	22,463	5,309	↓	6,085	↑	↓

Expenditure

Once again, the parish has brought the overall expenditure down by a further £10,323. This coupled with the legacy (see above) allowed us to have a small surplus at the end of the year. This was helped in a large part by the reduced Diocesan Levy which is based on offertory income from the previous year, depressed because of the 2020 lockdowns and restrictions.

In 2020, the presbytery accommodation was judged to be substandard, and on the recommendation of the Bishop and Chief Operating Officer, temporary accommodation for the priests was sought.

It took until the spring and early summer for the sale to go through. It should be noted that *'the flats'* have been purchased by the diocese and not by the parish, although the parish is responsible for the day-to-day expenses, as you would expect. Much of the cost of furniture was offset, either by using existing items from the presbytery, or from the closure of the retreat centre at Coolham or left by the previous tenant.

With the move to the flats, the two parish housekeepers were made redundant, and the money previously used for wages is now used to off-set the service charges on the flats. Yes, this does mean that additional costs for council tax and utilities have been incurred but the expenditure table shows it remains comparable to the 2019 pre-COVID levels. Each priest is now responsible for their own shopping and cleaning of their flat, and they no longer enjoy the benefit of a housekeeper to do their cooking or laundry, bringing our parish into line with many other parishes who have stopped such services. Additionally, throughout the pandemic, the administrators cleaned and sanitised the office and parish rooms after each use. As to the cleaning of the Church and Halls, the contactor is only being used for the Office, St Martha's Hall, and Church toilets. It is now the responsibility of each Church and Mass community to establish cleaning rotas now that the strict sanitising regime is no longer required.

Buildings

St Mary Magdalene Presbytery

The recent 2021 Quinquennial report recommended c£70K worth of repairs and a general refurbishment of between £100-300K to bring the building up to a modern standard. In April 2022, the Diocesan Finance Committee visited the presbytery recognizing the potential of the building for Mission, whilst acknowledging that the lack of boundaries between pastoral, office, and residence needed to be addressed.

They also stated that the residential areas would not, in their present state, meet the minimum standard for social housing. Therefore, they have authorised a more detailed survey of the building to get a true estimate of what is needed, including costing, and that an architect begins to draw up plans so that the presbytery / office / pastoral centre might once again be *'fit for mission'*. The renovation of the parish buildings needs to consider the future needs of the parish, taking into account the most important aspect, that being the safety and wellbeing of the parish priest.

St Mary Magdalene Hall

On Maundy Thursday 2021, a flood was discovered under the stage, and this had caused extensive damage to the floor, walls, and kitchen. The age of the building and the materials used meant that it took several months to dry the building out, and a certificate from the drying company was required before the special sprung floor could be re-laid. The floor was repaired via an Insurance claim, but payment for damage in the kitchen was denied because of a *'betterment exclusion'*, the insurance company believing that a new kitchen was required anyway; and work is underway on this.

The age of the building has caused extensive delays and we continue to experience problems with damp. The situation has now been escalated to Diocesan level to resolve and we are waiting for their advice. The quinquennial also recommended that the side wall be pinned to give additional structural support. The boiler is at the end of its life and will soon need to be replaced.

St Mary Magdalene Church

The age of the Church means that there are repairs required. Of most concern are the windows on the sea-side of the Church, which have been significantly eroded. Many other items are tired and need refurbishment as time and budget allows. The boilers were serviced and repaired; they too are affected by the ambient salt atmosphere. We will need to keep an eye on them and hope that they are good for another year at least.

St Martha's Church and Hall

Both these buildings are generally in good condition, with only routine refurbishment needs. The Boiler at St Martha's is a large industrial boiler, and seems to be losing water pressure, needing to be topped up every two weeks; investigations are ongoing.

Quinquennial Recommended Expenditure

How much might these repairs cost? Based on the surveyor's preliminary recommendations, the initial estimates are approximately:

St Mary Magdalene Church & Hall:	£200,000
St Mary Magdalene Presbytery ¹ :	£350,000 to £400,000
St Martha's Church and Hall:	£25,000

Obviously, these repairs will have to be properly costed and we should be aware that since the Quinquennial, the cost of living has affected all expenditures. A project manager from the Diocese has been appointed to assist the parish in working out the priorities for repair and refurbishment. Ultimately, we are at the very early stages, and we will be guided by the pastoral need, locally and in combination with the Diocesan Pastoral Plan and our Parish Finances.

Where might the money come from?

- Firstly, from the sale of the Church site at Sidley.
- Secondly, we have made an application to the diocese to waive 35% levy on the sale of buildings (the application is pending on the results of the additional survey).
- Thirdly, we will need a concerted fundraising effort on top of a general increase in weekly planned giving.

Sale of Sidley

We are on our third offer for the site in Sidley, and this is progressing under the oversight of the Diocesan Property Team at Bishop's House in Hove.

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¹ based on the Quinquennial highest estimate, plus survey and potential architecture fees

Finance Committee

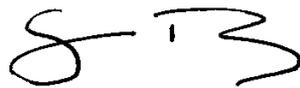
Despite the COVID restrictions on gatherings, our committee has been keeping a watching brief on income and expenditure and the maintenance needs of the parish.

We do, now, need to expand its membership to include the following roles:

- General membership
- Additional expertise on buildings
- Fundraising

If you feel able to serve, please speak with Fr Simon or Deacon Simon.

With the approval of the parish finance committee, I am pleased to present these accounts to the parish.



Fr Simon Dray

Parish Priest

8th July 2022

These accounts are subject to local audit.