

Holy Ghost Parish – Finances December 2020

As we all know, the past year has been a challenging one. The prohibition on collective worship and the taking of collections, which is our Church's main source of income, has left many parishes struggling financially. Although our Parish has been able to make some savings, mainly through the furlough scheme, most of our costs are fixed. In addition to which, we had committed to extra expenditure on the Lady Chapel and church before the virus struck. Instead of facing a huge loss, we have been blessed by the generous response of our parishioners; many of you have set up standing orders to provide your weekly donations, others have given generously through our JustGiving page and we have received a small number of large donations. The overall result is that we might possibly break even this year, which is a far better financial situation than we feared back in March as we went into lockdown.

We are currently evaluating a move to contactless giving to replace and augment the cash collection bags and hope to have this in place imminently – and you should see the new contactless giving machines in church very soon! Other parishes that have implemented such systems have then experienced a boost to their donations – let us pray for a similar impact at Holy Ghost as we look to rebuild from this year. In the meantime, as we start a new Liturgical year and we look forward with hope to the birth of Our Saviour, let's give thanks for the generosity of our Parishioners. Thank you all.

Antony Legge, Chairman, Pastoral and Finance Committee