

## Finance Matters Fact Sheet 8

Keeping you informed

from the Parish Finance Committee

Canon Law requires that every parish has a **Finance Committee**, with at least three lay people, to help and advise the parish priest, who is responsible for all financial decisions. They should ensure that parish finances are properly maintained, are on a sound financial footing and in compliance with the Charity Commission requirements.

Our Parish Finance Committee comprises our parish priest, Fr Paul Obada; Brigid Hincks (Parish Treasurer); Pat Curtis (Gift Aid Co-ordinator); Ursula Cook (Finance Officer); John King and Steve Parry. The Committee strives to ensure transparency and accountability in parish finances, through these Fact Sheets and the publication of annual returns. Following the confirmation of the accounts for the financial year September 2022-August 2023, copies of the usual annual report will be available for everyone. We have a Buildings Committee responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of all the buildings and grounds on our site.

### PARISH FUNDING

The September 2022 financial year started **£35,650** overdrawn. Running our parish costs £135,500 a year, but income is only £123,500. About £80,000 of that came from the weekly/monthly collections; in the plate and by standing orders etc AND the Gift Aid refunded. Parish Centre income was nearly £12,000 and Highcliffe Parish pays towards Father's stipend and costs. For the remainder, we are supported by a number of fundraising initiatives, for which we thank so many for their ongoing hard work and enthusiasm.

**BRIC A BRAC**, in the shop on Purewell, is our very successful sustainability project. The *face of the church on the street*, open 10-12 Monday-Thursday, enables the **re-using** of previously loved items and provides basic household items for the Food Bank and last year's Ukrainian appeal. Tony and his team raised an amazing £4,000 in the last financial year.

**REPOSITORY:** Thank you to Lesley and her team, who took almost £1,400 in sales, before and after weekend Masses. Buying the items, including sacramental certificates, rosaries and parish gifts, at a cost of nearly £800, they made a magnificent **£600** profit for the parish!

The **50:50** scheme, under Brigid's care, has been running since June last year and has raised £2,500 for our Families and Youth Project. The Autumn focus is the Boiler Project, for which they have raised £458 already. Each week, or as often as you want, put £2 in an envelope with your name and contact number, and put it in the box. After Sunday Mass, an envelope is drawn and the winner gets 50% of the money collected, the rest, with any donations, goes to the chosen project.

Our **SOCIAL COMMITTEE** combines building friendship groups, through various enjoyable events, with fundraising. Fun events have included Barbecue and Barn Dance, Race Night and Fayres. The recent Race Night supported the Boiler Project and raised well over £500. You are invited to the next Autumn Fayre on Saturday 18 November from 11-2.

Our **BOILER** is as old as the church, and older than many of our parishioners! We were warned three years ago, that it didn't have long, but the tender loving care given by members of the Buildings Committee, has kept it going – but we know it hasn't got long. We must be ready!

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?** Choose from: give more in the collections; Gift Aid if you are a tax payer; label Youth and Boiler donations PROJECT; declutter and give your quality items to Bric a Brac and come in and buy others to replace them! Buy from the Repository, join the 50:50 scheme or come along and enjoy yourself, while you are parted from your money, at social events.

Are you financially careful and accurate with paperwork? Could you be our next Gift Aid Co-ordinator?

The use of the term PROJECT is important as it means that 100% of the money given, goes to that cause.