



Finance Report from the Treasurer

A brief over-view of the church finances after the first seven months of the year reveals that COGS has realised a deficit of £2,000 to date, with donations slightly below forecast and expenses likewise. However, the updated forecast for the year indicates that this deficit will have increased to over £20,000 by year-end.

The most significant feature this year has been, despite one or two regular donors increasing their contribution (thank you!), the overall downward trend in monthly donations. This is explained by people leaving the village, and/or the church, or choosing/needing to reduce their regular donation amount for personal reasons. To date we have seen a reduction of around £25,000 on an annual basis, which represents over 11% of total income.

This significant downturn in income has prompted the PCC urgently to consider what options there are in order to address the growing imbalance between income and expenditure. The obvious one is to review the established COGS policy of tithing 10% of all donated income to outside missions, which is understandably keenly supported by some of the congregation. But for this policy to continue into 2022 one has to pose the question "What other ideas can you suggest to redress the unsustainable over-spending of our resources?" It is important to note that there is also, within the congregation, a number of people who are not supporters of this long-standing policy, and who would prefer for their contributions to be used to support the vital in-house "mission" work provided by our Youth, Children and Family activities.

Please talk with me, Howard or any member of the PCC if you would like to register your reaction and ideas.

Thank you all for your continuing generosity. **David Craigen**

MISSION OF THE MONTH

September - Alton Food Bank

Helping Local People in Crisis

"Our foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together towards stopping hunger in Alton and surrounding villages."

alton.foodbank.org.uk



PAPER SERVICE

We produce a paper version of our online services for anyone who cannot connect to us online. These are found with our service videos on the website. **If you know someone who would benefit from this, please print and deliver, or alert the office.**

Giving

We do not take offerings at our services, even when we are able to meet. Our preferred method of financial giving to continue the work of the Church is via Standing Order. Please contact the Church Office or our Treasurer, David Craigen (01420 564152 or cogstreasurer@gmail.com) for more details. If you wish to donate online, these are our account details:

Acc No: 60003685. Sort Code: 60-01-13. You can also find a Paypal donate button.



Many thanks for your generosity.

Ministers: All of Us Together

Vicar: Howard Wright

Tel: 01420 563344

Email: howardwright.cogs@gmail.com

Curate: Jon Rooke

Tel: 07519 046593

Email: jonrooke@hotmail.co.uk

Church Office: Matt Senior

Email: cogsoffice@googlemail.com

Family Worker: Jane Hughes

Tel: 07711 407831

Email: Jane_COGS@btinternet.com

Youth & Children's Worker: Lorna Littlewood

Tel: 07914 519998

Email: lorna.cogs@gmail.com

Services

8am is a said communion

9.30am is a service of the Word or a communion service with Kids Church and Live Worship Band. (Service is Live Streamed)

7pm informal celebration church in the church hall

No tickets are required, but sanitization and face masks are encouraged.

Morning Prayer / Compline: Contact David Bush
d.l.bush@mac.com

For weekly notices, please contact Matt to be added to the church mailing list.

For prayer updates, please contact Matt to be added to the email prayer chain.

Amen Christmas appeal...showing Gods love in action

Next Sunday (19th) will be the official launch of the Amen Christmas Box appeal.

There will be shown at each service a 4 minute video made by Amen to explain where the gifts will be going.

We shall be collecting Christmas shoe boxes (standard size box) with leaflet attached and any hand knitted/ crocheted blankets at the end of October to send out to Romania. Intact me

Leaflets will be available from next week in the church entrance foyer



Amen Christmas boxes and blankets being collected last year from Four Marks



And miraculously despite Covid arrived just in time for Christmas!

Friday night is Music Night

With live music returning to our 9.30 services, the band members will be rehearsing on Friday evenings. Led by the Worship Leaders, the primary focus will be on the worship for the Sunday, but new songs may be trialed too, and anyone is welcome to come along and join in. Bring your instrument if you can, or join in with the singing. We would especially welcome those learning an instrument wishing to gain confidence in a group. Appropriate social distancing precautions will be taken.

For further information and confirmation of timing, please contact Chris (chrismcgrath175@gmail.com) or the church office

Litter Picking

Thank you to all those kind people who have been litter picking round the village. We are now restarting our formal 3rd Saturday of the month 'Litter Picking' commencing Sat 18th September and we would love more volunteers to join us. . Please meet me in the car park at Oak Green Parade at 10.00 where I will give out equipment and bags. Elaine Moore 01962 772667

Message from Ginny

I feel very remiss at not thanking everyone for their prayers and support whilst mum was ill and after she subsequently died. And then after I lost my cat Luke. I really do appreciate my church family.

As an aside I wondered if you would be willing to encourage me by sponsoring me to walk 50 km (32 miles) of the Thames Path Challenge on next Sunday 12/9/21

This is a new distance for me and I know I will have to dig deep to achieve it. In June I walked 32 km on the Lake District Challenge. I shall be walking from Runnymede to Henley and am aiming to raise funds for research and awareness of bile duct cancer.

I am an ultra walker and many of you know I lost my mum to Bile Duct Cancer in April this year. You can sponsor me by following the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ginnywalks>

Blessings and many thanks,

Ginny

Fresh Start

Do you know anyone who wants to break free from a life-controlling habit such as smoking, gambling, over-eating, internet or social media addiction, shopping compulsions, binge drinking, soft drugs, etc. ?

fresh start

from Christians Against Poverty

Fresh Start is a free 8-week course based on principles from the 12-steps-of-recovery process, backed by 1-to-1 coaching and a support group of others wanting to tackle their dependencies. If you want to tackle a life-controlling habit, join the **Fresh Start** course. It's free and completely confidential.

The next local courses will start on Wednesday 6th October at Alton Maltings Centre - one in the morning (10:30 - 12:00) and the other in the evening (19:30 - 21:00). To register for the course, call Mark Rumsby on 07769 030913 or email alton@capuk.org.
