

APPEAL FOR FUNDS

*'Regular giving campaign
delayed twice due to COVID...'*

*'Half income and
plate donations
impacted by the
pandemic...'*

*'Costs are now greater
than income...'*



SPRING 2021 – A TIME TO REFLECT, REACT AND RECOVER

Financial challenges have been on the horizon for some time as regular giving has remained constant, costs are increasing and church hall roof loans continue to be repaid.

The PCC developed plans during 2019 to run a regular giving campaign in 2020 to address the situation. However, COVID restrictions have meant postponement of the campaign twice, which is now not expected to be held until 2022.



We can be thankful that despite financial pressures, we have continued to repay the loans for the church hall roof replacement that were provided by the congregation back in 2017.

Over 75% of the £107,000 originally lent for the church hall roof has now been settled. However, the remaining repayments continue to put pressure on our cashflow.



By God's grace, although income was lower than expected in 2020 by £32,000, nearly 15%, so too were our costs; this was largely due to staff vacancies and the fact that many of our normal activities could not take place.

Staff vacancies have now been filled by some wonderful additions to the staff team and we are getting ready to resume activities. This now means, however, that costs are greater than income.

In short, the absence of a regular giving campaign and COVID restrictions, have left a hole in our finances.

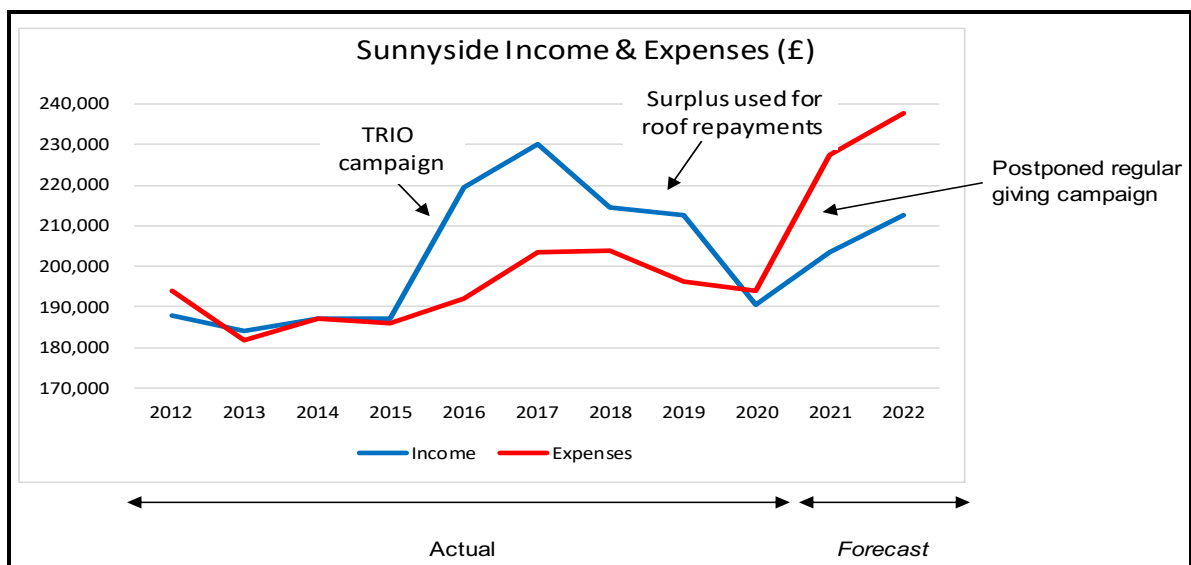


TELL ME MORE ABOUT SUNNYSIDE'S FINANCES...

Income and expenses over the last few years are summarised in the chart below. This shows the impact that having to postpone the regular giving campaign is expected to have on our finances.

The sharp increase in expenses from 2021 is due to costs being lower during 2020 and the fact that we have had staff vacancies during many of the recent years, vacancies which have now finally been filled.

The chart also highlights that surpluses in the 2016-2019 period have largely been used to repay the loans made for roof repairs in 2017.



Over 90% of our income arrives through regular giving with the remainder being from hall income, activities and other donations.

Costs are broadly split between the Parish Share (40%), staff (30%) and running costs (30%). The Parish Share is a contribution made to the diocese and covers the following things:

- Ministry support – diocesan clergy, lay staff and practical support from the diocese.
- Sunnyside vicar and some curate costs – this includes salary, pension, vicarage costs and vicarage council tax.
- Training – training for ordinands and future clergy. Several Sunnysiders have gone forward for training in the past and we currently have two curates who are training.
- National support – national church support and support for parishes with particular needs.

HOW WILL THE FUNDS BE USED?

This one off-appeal is for £35,000 (plus gift aid), and is to cover the shortfall in income that a giving campaign was expected to yield during 2021 and the first half of 2022. It is also to cover shortfalls from not being able to hire out the church hall and from lower plate donations whilst COVID restrictions remain in place and before we return to worship and church activities in person once again.



We understand that everyone's finances will have been impacted by COVID in different ways. This may have had an adverse impact for some, whilst for others there may have been a positive effect through lower spending.

Whatever your circumstances, please prayerfully consider whether you can be part of a combined effort to address this serious gap in our finances and support the many things that we continue to do as a church and some exciting new activities that are planned for when we return.



HOW CAN I HELP?

If you are able to be part of this important appeal, please make a bank transfer using the following details:

Reference: Appeal2021
Account: 51858339
Sort Code: 60-02-21

Alternatively you can leave a cheque made payable to 'PCC St Michaels Sunnyside' or cash in an envelope marked 'Private & Confidential, The Treasurer, Appeal 2021' in the post box outside of the church office or placed on the collection plate at church services throughout May.

As always and with all types of giving; only Shawn Baggs and John Willacy, the Assistant Treasurer, will know that you have made a one-off donation to this appeal.

We are so very grateful for your support.