



## COVID 19 financial update

With Canon Paul's retirement, 2021 will be one of those key times in the life of the Parish. Paul will go on long service leave on 4 January and retire formally on 25 July. Later this year we will be arranging a Parish farewell to him, details of which will be circulated once we know how the coronavirus constraints will affect the style of function we can plan.

We have been truly blest this year, despite the challenges that COVID-19 has presented. We were able to commence worship in the hall from July and are looking to run some of our services in the Church from the start of November.

With the assistance of JobKeeper, help from the Diocese and a cut-back of some expenditures we will finish this year in surplus, and without having to reduce staffing. Given the significant drop in parking income, that is a great result, made possible only through the means I have just mentioned, but also because of the generosity of our parishioners in their weekly giving.

Next year will produce some financial challenges as the JobKeeper program winds back and, understandably, financial assistance from the Diocese cannot go on forever. We will be critically dependent on a resumption of our parking income (which represents about 40% of our revenues) to pre-COVID levels if we are to balance our 2021 budget.

And, of course, expenses are always higher during an interregnum, including the funds needed for the work of the Clergy Appointments Board in finding our next Rector.

If we are to maintain our current level of ministry, we also have to make a clergy appointment for 2021 to assist Canon Margaret, who will be locum tenens. Again, while we will have some Diocesan assistance while Paul is on long service leave, without a full resumption of parking, it will be a challenging year.

We are, however, in the fortunate position of having good trust funds reserves because of the thoughtful generosity of those who left bequests to St John's. While we try to reserve trust funds for capital works, which are always high in a Parish such as ours with heritage-listed buildings and extensive grounds, Parish Council may have to draw down on them this year as part of our financial recovery from the COVID era. In later messages, I will let you know whether that has been the case.

Because of changes to the make-up of our Parish, offertory income, in dollar terms, has been fairly static over the past decade. While we are very thankful that, in this year of all years, it hasn't diminished, a small increase in income from offertories would be very helpful in managing in 2021 and may minimise the amount we have to draw down from reserves. If you were willing to review your financial commitment to the Parish, we would be most grateful.

Please continue to pray for the ministry team and staff, and for parish councillors as we continue in our management of this exceptional time in the life of St John's.

Yours in Christ

John Richards, Presiding Member of Parish Council

22/10/20