

Treasurer's Report St James Fuerteventura 2020

Once again, I would like to start my report this year by thanking God for His faithfulness to us as a chaplaincy and to thank all the people who faithfully give to the work of St James and beyond.

Last year was a very difficult year financially for many chaplaincies and churches across the world with giving from collection plates almost disappearing altogether and reliance on giving from direct debits and standing orders being increasingly important. With few live services and practically no tourists on the Island, St James has, in this respect been no different. However, early in the pandemic, our resourceful chaplain found an online tool which allowed people to make online donations to the chaplaincy, which has made a huge difference to our chaplaincy finances. Along with the online services, this has kept our congregation both here on the Island and away, along with many others who we have yet to meet in person, engaged and involved with the work and needs of the Chaplaincy.

As a result, this year our Euros income has, for the first time, exceeded our Euros outgoings with a 1,197.92 Euros excess over our outgoings. This is partly due to the fact that with little travelling allowed and more meetings taking place on Zoom, our chaplaincy costs have reduced. That said, our giving to charity has increased significantly which is appropriate when the pandemic has made the poor even poorer even though our outgoings increased by some 800 Euros. The Christmas fundraising alone added a further 500 Euros (compared to the 2018 figure). The balance in the Euros account at year end was 17,501.60 Euros.

The Pounds income was slightly reduced this year due to a reduction in the service fees (-£553) and the reclaimed gift aid (-£290) -although the regular monthly payments remained relatively static. This was alongside increased costs due to a Reader in training (£996 for online training and residential course fees) and almost £1300 paid on a one-off reconciliation of costs towards the utilities on Casa Bob for the past 3 years. Having said that the pounds income still exceeded the pounds outgoings by almost £2500 meaning that the end of year balance on the pounds account is £31,692.44

Overall, our costs are in line with what we predicted in the 5-year budget we prepared last year.

We are, once again, very thankful to Fiona and her family for the continued use of Casa Bob and the blessing that has been to us as a chaplaincy. We are continuing to keep the house in good order with routine repairs and maintenance as required, but this year we improved the house and life for Bob and Judie with the installation of custom-made mosquito screens for the windows.

We have been able to increase our charitable giving again this year.

1660.90 Euros given to Fuerteventura against Cancer (10% plate giving – 950.70 Euros plus donations of 930.37 Euros)

£700 was given to TEAR Fund.

In addition, we have donated groceries and clothes by the crateful to Misión Cristiana Moderna for their work with Refugees and the poor on this Island.

I am very thankful for this increased charitable giving as I believe it is important that we look outwards as well as inwards in our stewardship.

Once again, I would also like to thank Dr Douglas Brown, an independent examiner for the Lichfield Diocese, for his continued support for me as treasurer and for auditing the 2019 St James accounts. He has for 4 years freely provided his support and counsel and I am grateful for this.

Following last years AGM, I did investigate the possibility of an envelope scheme for St James, but this did not prove feasible.

If anyone wishes to see the accounts in detail, then I am happy to facilitate this.

Ruth Brough - Treasurer, St James, Fuerteventura