

Treasurer's Report 2022

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. We could not survive without His faithfulness to us year on year, and as we began the interregnum this year, we have even more to be thankful for at a time when many chaplaincies in the same position are really struggling to make ends meet. I will elaborate later.

Last year we continued to receive donations online via our website as well as the plate giving locally, although this form of online giving has reduced, it is certainly a significant part of our Euros income. Within the Diocese In Europe, they have appointed a Fund Raising Advisor, who was so impressed with our website giving page that she has asked to use it with other chaplaincies as an example of best practice. So once again, thanks are due to our now retired chaplain, Bob, for his resourcefulness.

Some highlights from the accounts

- Our Euro costs were on a par with 2021, even with the increases in utilities bills etc. we have saved on some costs and been able to give more to MCM and SAAC this year (€3,551.63 an increase of €240 over last year).
- Euro giving has increased in that the Euros income exceeded our outgoings by over €2,700. This is important as when the new chaplain arrives some of our costs will also rise significantly. We need this trend to continue.
- Giving to the pounds account has also seen an increase of just over £1,100 but a large part of this has been due to charity giving which we have then passed onto the relevant charities. As a result, our charity donations, in pounds, given to TEARFUND and Ukraine increased by over £1,900 to £3221.13.
- A significant and ongoing cost into the 2023 accounts is the recruitment of our new chaplain. These costs amounted to almost £3,600 in the 2022 accounts. The costs continue into 2023 but overall, are in line with my overall prediction of £10,000 which we have drawn from the reserves we use for chaplaincy car replacement and significant costs when they arise on Casa Bob. This will need to be replaced as it amounts to over 1 years-worth of local giving in the Chaplaincy and so we will, once the recruitment has been completed, have a Gift Day, to help with covering these additional costs.

Along with our thankfulness to God, there are others to whom I feel we owe particular thanks.

Our visiting clergy – all of those who have supported us during this interregnum have given their services to us free of charge when they could have asked for air fares, service fees and living costs to be covered. We have even received donations to cover living costs in Casa Bob and for the use of the car. This is extremely generous and demonstrates to us all what being a Christian is all about.

Congregation members who pay for things and never present the receipts to be reimbursed.

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 once the new chaplain arrives, I envisage some

additional costs for improvements which we have delayed in order to allow their input to the decisions we make.

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 inspecting the 2022 accounts. He has for 7 years freely provided his support and counsel and I am grateful for this.

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

Ruth Brough
Treasurer.