



ST ANDREW'S, CHESTERTON

*A thriving, open and welcoming church community
for all ages*

To: All members of the Church Electoral Roll
(and to any who consider themselves members of St Andrew's)

This year's Financial Report and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

As indicated last year, we will now write to church members each year to keep you abreast of the financial situation at St Andrew's and to give everyone the chance to review their giving in the light of their income and other commitments. This is emphatically not intended to tighten thumbscrews or to stir up greater waves of guilt, but simply to keep you better informed and to tie in with the annual cycles of budgeting that many of us have. I am aware that the current financial situation means that some people are feeling less financially secure than a year ago; some may need to review (downwards) their giving to the church. I would encourage you to do so if you need to. At the same time, there are others who are much less affected by what's going on – and perhaps some of us could consider doing more (to fulfil St Paul's principle of the strong supporting the weak).

You will see from Simon's figures (overleaf) that last year our income more or less matched our expenditure. With an eye on current financial conditions the PCC has thought it prudent to budget for a deficit (over £2,000) for this year, but even that assumes a growth in giving of 3.5% - so we cannot afford to be complacent.

I would ask everyone prayerfully to review their giving. If you give (or would like to give) by standing order, to set up or alter payments you can use the forms available at the back of church or on the church website (www.standrews-chesterton.org). They explain exactly what you need to do. They also have information about Gift Aid.

I am also writing to invite you to attend the church's annual meeting, which this year will follow the morning service (i.e. at about 11.30am) on **Sunday 29 March**, in the Hall. The service will include a slideshow looking back over 2008 and the meeting will be followed by a bring and share lunch. The annual report can be viewed on the website from 15 March (together with the minutes of last year's meeting) and copies will be also available at the back of church.

With my prayers and warmest Christian greetings

Nick

From the Reverend Nick Moir, *Vicar*
St Andrew's Vicarage, 10 Lynfield Lane, Cambridge CB4 1DR
Telephone: (01223) 303469 Email: vicar@standrews-chesterton.org

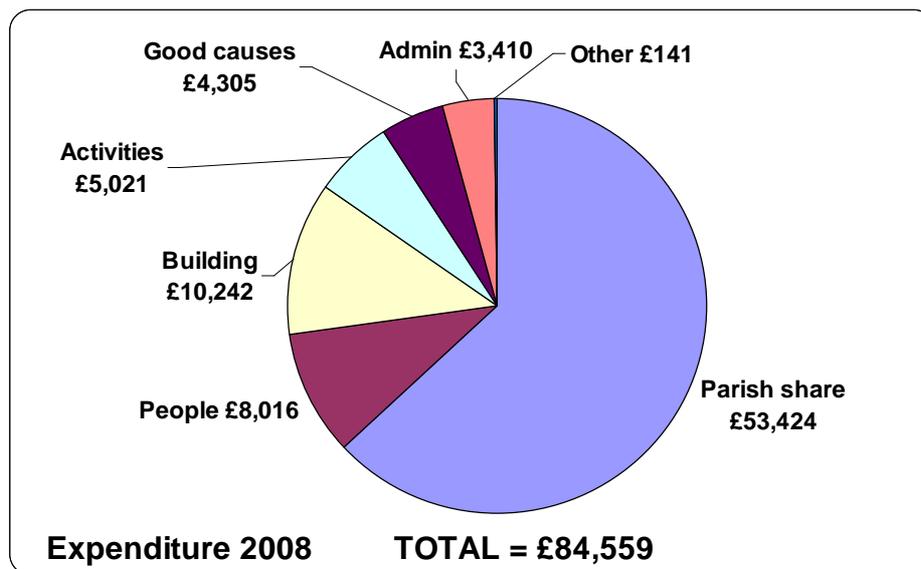
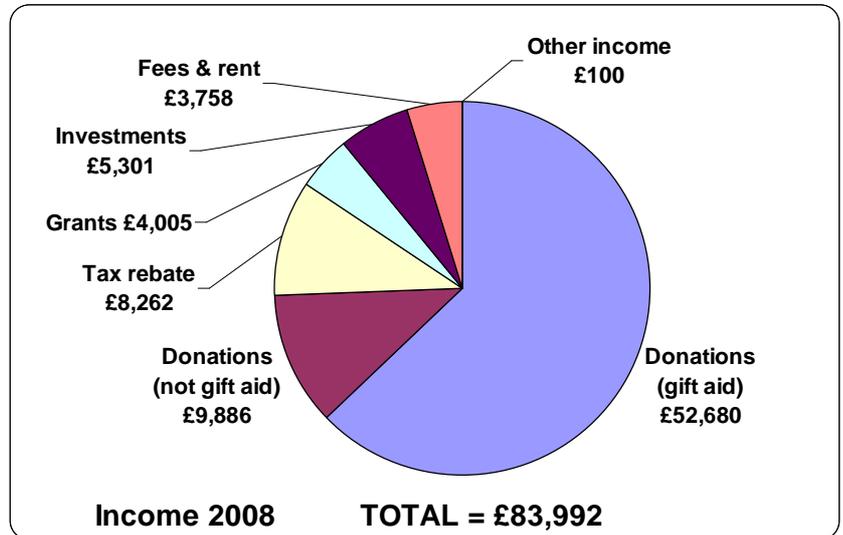
St Andrew's Income and Expenditure

These pie charts show our current-account income and expenditure for 2008 at St Andrews. Not shown here is around £5,000 raised by Gift Days for good causes including the Blue House Project; and capital income and expenditure.

Income

More than 85% of our income comes directly from donations by the congregation.

The "tax rebate" of £8,262 is money we get back from the Inland Revenue for money donated through Gift Aid.



Expenditure

Most of our expenditure goes to the parish share, which ultimately pays for our full-time vicar. Much of the rest goes on people (musicians, administrative support) and activities (music, Junior Church etc). The Admin figure includes £2,000 on Chesterton Chimes.

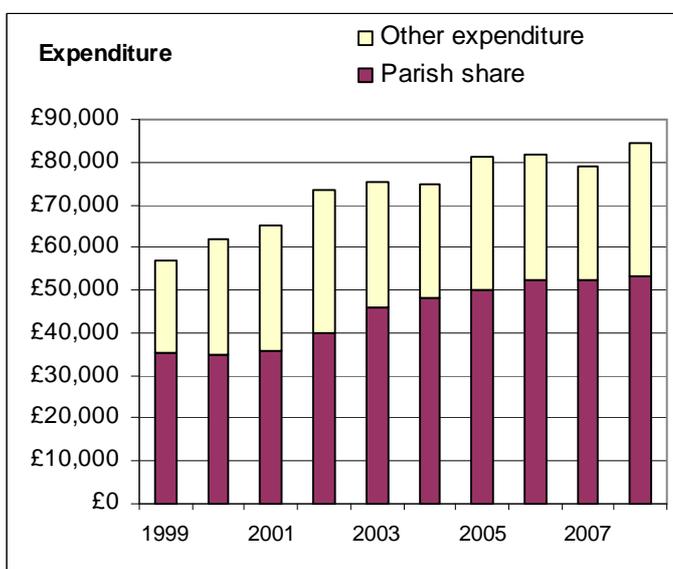
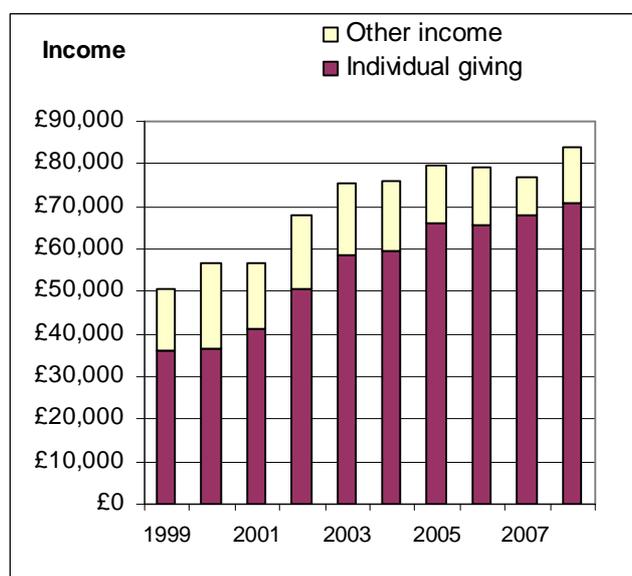
As you can see, our income exceeded our current expenditure by a modest £567, but the budget for 2009 is less rosy.

Committed giving. I am particularly grateful to people who give by regular standing order or the envelope scheme. This table shows the breakdown for 2008. There were 102 givers, of whom 62 give up to £200/year. St Andrew's has an electoral roll of 155 adults, so there is plenty of scope more people to join in (although this figure includes married couples most of whom give jointly).

Annual gift	Number	Amount
over £2500	4	£10,994
£2000-£2500	1	£2,370
£1000-£2000	5	£6,854
£500-£1000	15	£10,005
£200-£500	38	£12,433
£100-£200	23	£3,793
£1-£100	16	£1,208
TOTAL	102	£47,657

What has changed

Here is how our income and expenditure has changed over the last eight years. Notice how our giving has flattened off, and even begun to decrease, in 2005-7, and then increased in 2008 in response to our last invitation to renew a financial commitment to St Andrews. Thank you!



Gift Aid

If you are a taxpayer, I can recover from the Inland Revenue £28 for every £100 you give to the church. This used to apply only to *covenants*, which were four-year commitments. But I can now recover tax on *all* your donations, even one-off donations, if you complete a single, simple Gift Aid declaration form.

Completing a Gift Aid declaration does not commit you to any particular level of giving (unlike the old covenants).

Almost everyone is a taxpayer, and therefore eligible for Gift Aid. Many people who are not wage-earners are tax-payers: even pensions are taxed! Capital gains tax counts too. Only if your total annual income is less than about £4,500 are you likely to be a non-taxpayer.

If you completed a Gift Aid form before, and you are sure that I have it, there's no need to do a new one. Tick the appropriate box on the Action Form and I'll check I have your old one.

Ways to give

Standing order. If it is possible for you, I urge you to use a standing order. That gives the church a predictable flow of income on which to plan; it considerably reduces time spent counting cash and recording donations (so as to recover tax); and it comes in even when you are on holiday! Ask me for a form: email address and phone number below.

Envelopes. If you prefer, you can give using dated envelopes, in which you put a cash donation. The envelopes are numbered, so that I can track your donations (so as to recover tax).

Cash in the collection. If you don't feel able to make a regular donation, you can of course put cash in the collection bag on Sunday.

If you find yourself putting £5 or £10 in the collection bag, please put it in one of the white Gift Aid envelopes in the pews. If I have your declaration on file, all you need do is put your name on the envelope and sign and date it; otherwise you will need to add your address as well

St Andrew's Budget for 2009

This is the budget agreed by the December 2008 PCC meeting.

This budget assumes an increase in individual giving of around 3.5%. (The figures below show an apparently larger increase but that is due to the timing of Gift Aid rebates from the Inland Revenue.) Given the economic circumstances, we did not think it wise to ask the congregation for a larger increase, but our expenses are inflexible so we expect to spend some £2,500 more than we receive in 2009.

	2008 actual	2009 budget
Income		
Individual donations	£70,828	£77,371
Grants	£4,005	£2,400
Fees and rent	£3,758	£2,500
Other sources of funds	£100	£200
Investments	£5,301	£1,400
TOTAL	£83,992	£83,871

	2008 actual	2009 budget
Expenditure		
Parish share	£53,424	£55,575
People	£8,016	£8,460
Building services and maintenance	£10,242	£9,500
Activities	£5,021	£4,800
Administrative costs	£3,410	£3,500
Good causes	£4,305	£4,000
Other costs	£141	£500
TOTAL	£84,559	£86,335

SURPLUS (-DEFICIT)	-£566	-£2,464
---------------------------	--------------	----------------

Other notes. Income from grants was higher than usual in 2008 because of a windfall from the diocese that won't happen in 2009. The other big change on the income side is that, as part of a review of our funds, we recognised that a chunk of investment income was supporting current expenditure when it should more properly be directed to more focused ends. That, plus the reduction in interest rates, makes a big change in income from that source.