

## Finance Report and Charitable Giving – year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

### Treasurer's Report

#### Introduction

I attach a copy of the Cathedral Accountant's statement of the Income and Expenditure featuring in the Cathedral Offertory Fund Account for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

#### Comments on the statement

Prepared In its usual form, the Statement shows a comparison of the income and expenditure for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 with that in the preceding year. Under the Income heading the various sources of income accruing to the Fund are itemised. That shows clearly the adverse effect of the Lockdown, and other restrictions, associated with the Covid -19 pandemic in the greatly reduced "on the day" giving at services on Sundays, Weekdays, Advent and Christmastide. In total it accounts for a drop of £82,843 in Offertory income compared to the previous year.

Despite the reduced "on the day" giving referred to above, receipts through the the Planned Giving Scheme, and associated Gift Aid recovery, were a significant part of the total income. **It was, in fact, 89% of the total Offertory Fund income** and without that level of commitment from the worshipping Community the Cathedral's ability to support local charities would have been severely impaired.

As noted in the Statement, 5% of the Offertory Fund income is made available by the Chapter for charitable giving on the recommendation of the Community Forum. The reduction in income for 2020/21 resulted in a commensurate reduction in the amount of such expenditure.

The Statement records the donations to the charities listed in Note 2 at the foot of the page. It will be apparent that this is a composite list of charities, so showing that some were recommended by the Forum, and agreed by Chapter, for support in both years but others were not, and this is discussed below.

#### Charitable Giving

Each year the Forum recommends to Chapter which Charities are to be supported, and. in recent years, it has recommended an equal distribution of the available funds between them.

The selection process has been refined in 2020/2021, not least because of the number of requests for support but also the considerably reduced fund for distribution. Briefly a method of assessing charities for support, centres on two tests: a Qualification Test and a Frequency Test.

## The Qualification Test

The essential point in the Qualification Test is to ensure that emphasis is placed on supporting local charities engaged in community welfare and child focussed welfare work, whilst not precluding other meritorious charities. It is also the case that charities with substantial resources are generally excluded from consideration as the important requirement is that our modest donations can make a noticeable and beneficial impact for those selected for an Award. "Local" has been taken to mean across the geographical area of the Salisbury Diocese and not limited to Wiltshire. Such an approach is felt to be more aligned with the Cathedral's social and welfare outreach objectives.

## The Frequency Test.

It was also felt that there might be an increasing assumption by charities, which have received support on a repeated basis, that this would continue. As a transitional measure towards damping down such expectations, whilst at the same time affording each selected charity a worthwhile measure of support, the view has been taken that a charity should not be included for an award, at least not for a reasonable interval since their last award, if they have received more than five awards over the preceding 11 years.

It can be seen from the Statement that despite the severe drop in Offertory income, careful scrutiny of applications from charities against the Tests outlined above has enabled worthwhile awards to be made to the selected charities.

## **Conclusion**

The Statement of Account attached to this Report makes clear the adverse impact of Covid-19 on Offertory Fund income from a large reduction in "on the day" giving. At the same time it demonstrates the huge benefit from the Planned Giving Scheme and associated Gift Aid recovery, without which Chapter's ability to support local charities would have been considerably impaired.

**Patrick Thomas**

Community Forum Treasurer

16<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**SALISBURY CATHEDRAL  
OFFERTORY FUND  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2021**

<b>INCOME</b>	Note	<b>2021</b> £	<b>2020</b> £
Offerings from services:			
Sunday		10,024	48,916
Weekday		322	7,291
Sunday / Weekday Gift Aid		1,632	6,531
Planned Giving		105,127	106,054
Planned Giving Gift aid		21,868	22,308
Christmas	1	2,237	28,668
Christmas Gift aid	1	335	4,620
		<u>141,545</u>	<u>224,388</u>

**EXPENDITURE**

Charitable Donations	2	7,077	11,223
		<u>7,077</u>	<u>11,223</u>

The Offertory Fund is a subsidiary fund of the Common Account of the Cathedral. In addition to the general weekly offerings received from the Cathedral congregation, the Fund also shows those offerings received at Christmas services, 5% of which is given to the charities recommended to Chapter by the Cathedral Community Forum. The income and expenditure shown in the Offertory Fund Account will be incorporated within the audited accounts of the Cathedral for the year ended 31st March 2021.

In February 2017, the Cathedral Community Forum agreed to a request from the Cathedral clergy to discontinue the second, retiring collections on certain designated Sundays and place renewed emphasis upon the planned giving from the congregation, 5% of which would be earmarked for donation to other charities.

The Cathedral Community Forum recommends to Chapter on how it should distribute 5% of the general offerings to charities and good causes. This year the general offerings totalled £141,545, 5% of which is £7,077.

These numbers were greatly affected by the lockdown for COVID-19.

**Notes to the accounts**

	<b>2021</b> £	<b>2020</b> £
<b>1. Christmas offerings</b>		
Advent Processions	-	16,594
Christmas Processions	840	9,166
Midnight Mass	482	2,706
Family service	-	1,766
Christmas Day	1,250	3,056
	<u>2,572</u>	<u>33,288</u>
<b>2. Charitable donations</b>		
Family Counselling Trust	1,011	1,247
Salisbury Women's Refuge	1,011	1,247
Julia's House	1,011	1,247
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	1,011	1,247
Salisbury Christians against Poverty Centre	1,011	-
The Footprints Project	1,011	-
Salisbury Food Bank	1,011	-
The Bridge Project	-	1,247
Alabare	-	1,247
The Trussell Trust	-	1,247
Kids for Kids	-	1,247
Friends of Erlestoke Prison	-	1,247
	<u>7,077</u>	<u>11,223</u>