**Treasurer’s report to the church members September 2018**

As I said in the September newsletter, this time last year we were discussing how we could address the significant “underlying” (ignoring legacies/donations) cash deficit that the church was running year on year. It was a position that, although foreseen, had finally come to fruition because we had successfully recruited a full staff team and total offerings were falling year on year.

What a difference a year makes! The church has responded in terms of increased giving and total offerings are currently running at 4.0% above last year (although still £8,000 below budget). This increase in income, together with cut backs in expenditure, has meant that we have significantly reduced our “underlying” cash deficit run rate. We have much to be thankful for – praise the Lord.

There is, however, some way still to go and with inflation running at 2.4% (August CPIH), and adding circa £9,000pa to our running costs next year, we still face challenges going forward. With this in mind, the finance team have agreed a first draft 2019 budget which will be presented at the September church members’ meeting (CMM). The final budget will be presented for approval at the November CMM.

As regards the financial position to the end of August we are running at a surplus of £27,000, which is £3,000 better than budget. We always run at a large surplus at this time of year because we receive our Gift Aid rebate (£66,000, including £5,000 for the building fund) in one large lump sum early in the year and for the rest of the year we run at a deficit of circa £5,000 per month.

Although offerings are £8,000 below budget and our Gift Aid refund was £1,000 less than expected, these have been more than offset by legacies and one off donations totaling £16,000, to make total income £7,000 above budget. Expenditure continues to run close to budget

Looking forward we are expecting to end the year with a surplus of £6,000. We have assumed that we will receive the £10,000 legacy from the Maisie Bertha Grant’s Estate, bringing legacy income to a total of £22,000 for the year. As a church we are still in a position of running at an annual cash deficit if we exclude legacies, albeit we are in a much better position than a year ago.

***The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”’ (Numbers 6:24-26)***

Craig Rowland

 Treasurer