

4. GROW FINANCIALLY

Objective- to meet the routine running expenses of our church through planned giving.

I stress “running expenses” since we are very fortunate to be supported by the Friends of All Saints in helping to pay for major building restoration costs. We owe the Friends a great deal of thanks for this support.

The reasoning behind this objective is to make us more financially secure and less dependent upon Fundraising activities such as Summer Fete, Quiz nights etc. By raising our Planned Giving in line with this objective we could then devote monies from Fundraising to develop and support our church mission here in Braunston and further afield.

“Running expenses” are the day-to-day costs associated with paying for the services of a vicar plus the heating, lighting etc. These costs are clearly our responsibility as a congregation and you will hear more detail of this when we have our TRIO presentation.

Apart from plate collections at services and PCC fees for weddings etc. our 2 main sources of income by far are Planned Giving and Fundraising. Over the past 2 years our total income has just about balanced out our running expenses to keep our finances on an even keel. Well done and a big thank you to all our regular givers.

It costs around £6000 a month to run our church. To achieve our objective we needed to raise our Planned giving from its current level of £3,800 per month to £4,400 per month by incremental increases each year, not all at once as that would be impractical. We started well on that road in our first GAP year. However, in the latest year we have had a reduction in Planned Giving caused by some of our supporters being no longer with us and others having to adjust their financial commitments to meet new circumstances. All these reasons are fully justified and beyond our control.

As a result we will need to continue relying on our Fundraising activities to cover the GAP in balancing our running costs. More details of the figures and how we can overcome this gap will be given in our forthcoming TRIO Service in April.