



Survey: Financial Implications of Lockdown

Sent to all Treasurers in the Diocese of Winchester for Completion 21st September 2020

Response

126 Parishes Treasurers completed the survey online.

Changes to Unrestricted Reserve Levels during Lockdown

95 Parishes have seen their reserves deplete in the timescale of year end 2019, to survey completion date, deadline 9th October 2020, with some losing between £20,000 - £60,000.

31 Parishes increased their level of unrestricted reserves during this period, with some increasing £10,000 or more.

Some parishes lost more than this, but this was due to scheduled projects and/or building works.

The average drop in unrestricted reserves across the 126 parishes was £8,497.

The average loss in unrestricted reserve percentage across the 126 parishes was 13%, with some parishes seeing a rise of over 100% in their level of unrestricted reserves, with others losing 75%.

Loss of Hall Rental Income

From the 61 parishes that usually hire out their church or church hall the average loss of income was £7,571, with some parishes losing in the tens of thousands.

Comments on Sustaining Giving during Lockdown

Those parishes that have regular giving platforms in place saw very little change in giving levels. Those that are signed up the Parish Giving Scheme commented that its effectiveness was extremely helpful. Standing orders and direct debits remained constant across the board, with some reporting minimal changes due to differing circumstances. One parish, however, reported that they had seen a £10,000 drop in PGS giving over the period.

Collection giving practically stopped ubiquitously, with many reporting that they had lost 100% of the income expected from the offertory over the lockdown period. Others commented that some members deferred their giving in this way until churches reopened or redirected this giving into the PGS or online giving platforms.

Many parishes mentioned that they had lost significant income due to being unable to hold fundraising events over the summer.

One-off Gifts

Many churches said they had not received any one-off gifts. Others said they had received a few small gifts, ranging from £10-£250.

A few churches said that they had received one-off gifts in direct response to appeals and campaigns, often signposting their donors to online giving platforms.

There were cases where parishes had received one of gifts of £6,000, or £7,000, with one parish receiving a generous gift of £10,000. One parish commented that they had received "some very large one-off gifts".

Any Additional/Unexpected Income

Many parishes commented that they had made savings on utilities and expenses due to church buildings not being opened, including electricity and organist hiring. Most saw reductions of around £200-£500 during the lockdown period, with some reporting savings of between £2,000-£4,000.

Significant savings were made at larger churches through the Job Retention Scheme, with some employees being placed on Furlough; one parish saw a saving of £28,000. Some churches made redundancies, where other parishes made full time employees part time, or did not employ new staff into vacant posts, saving ~£10,000.

Direct Costs Associated with Providing New Forms of Church

Most of the costs associated with providing online church services were attributed to purchasing computer and AV equipment. The costs for this equipment ranged from £1,000 to £10,000.

Other costs associated were in relation to PPE and sanitising resources, with parishes spending up to £750 for this equipment.

Many parishes spent money on posting materials to their congregations, with one parish spending £2,000, and other parishes spending upwards of £500-£1,000 on this.

Lastly, many parishes mentioned the cost associated with paying for Zoom accounts, which was typically £15-£30 per month.

LM

12/10/2020

Survey Questions:

1. Name:
2. Parish:
3. Deanery:
4. What were the parish's unrestricted reserves at 2019-year end?
5. What are the parish's unrestricted reserves now?
6. If the parish usually benefits from rental income, please estimate how much has been lost during the Lockdown period.
7. Please comment on the giving levels during the lockdown period.
8. Has the parish received any one-off gifts in direct relation to the loss of funds during the lockdown period?
9. Has the parish received any additional unexpected income or made any savings during the Lockdown period? Please comment in detail.
10. Has the parish incurred any costs in direct relation to holding church services and groups online, or in other different formats, during the Lockdown period (e.g Audio/Visual equipment, posting and packaging costs)?