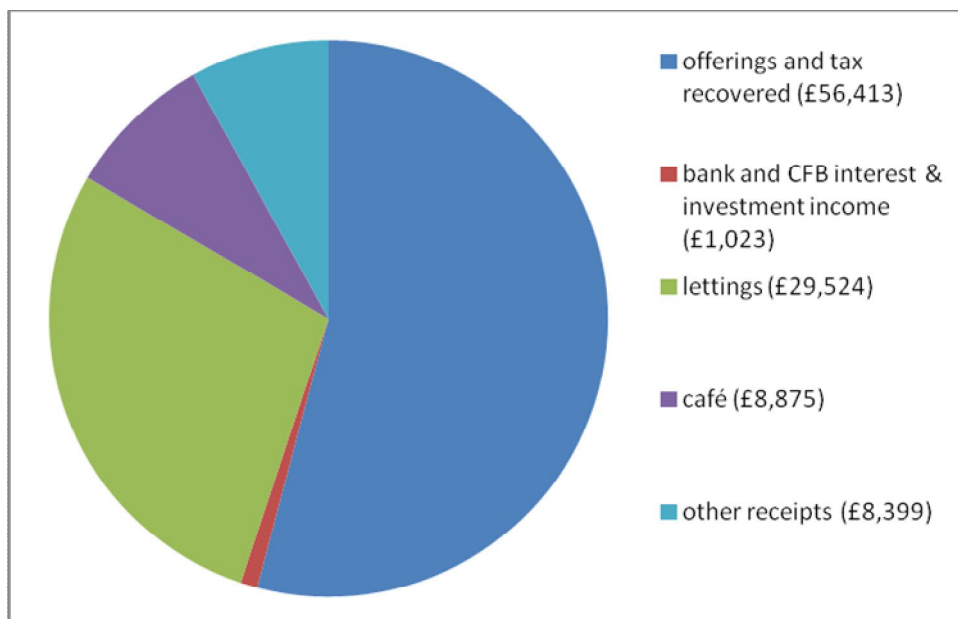


Bless these gifts to our use and us to your service

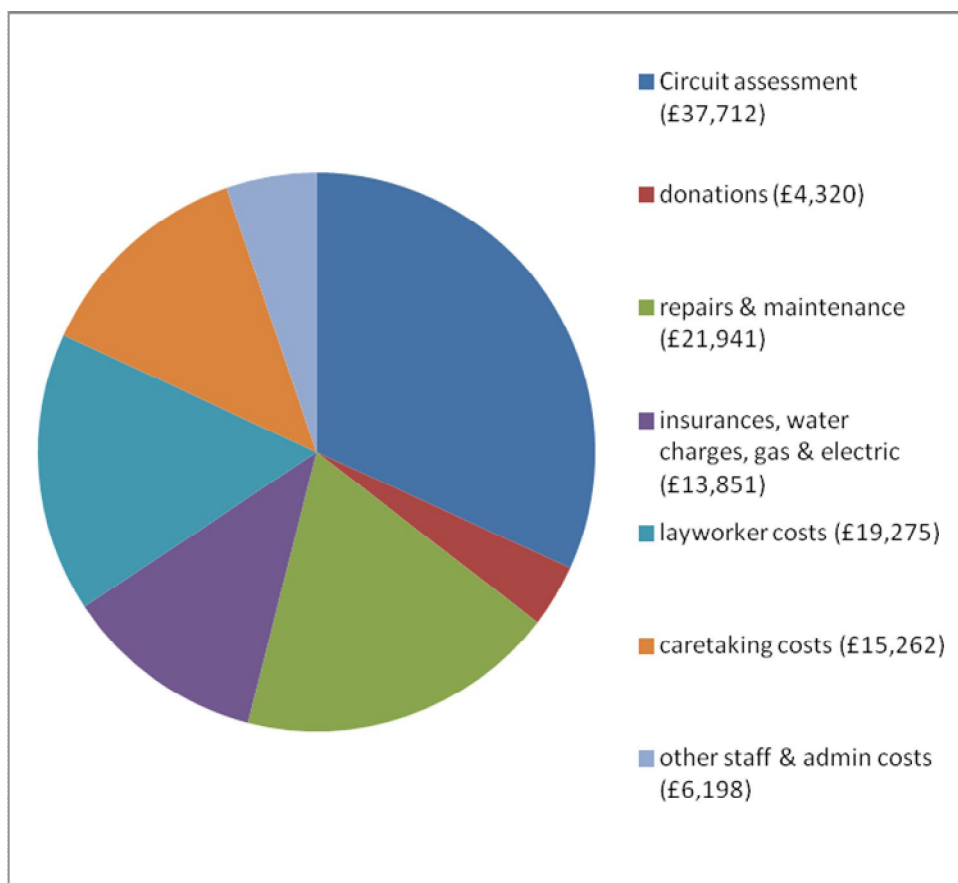
At the start of the calendar year, many of us turn to think about budgets, at home and at work. In these tough economic times, we worry about how to make our resources go further. Can we reduce the weekly food bill? Will we be able to afford a holiday? Will the company be able to keep its full team of staff?

At Church too, the finance committee has been thinking about the Church budget for the year, and we have much for which we can be grateful.

The Church's financial year runs from the beginning of September, so at the Church Council meeting in October, Colin Smith was able to present an annual report for the year ended 31 August 2011. Our Treasurer, Ian Stubbs, ably provided an overview of financial performance for the year. The total income received over the twelve month period was over £104,000, whilst expenditure slightly exceeded £118,500. The apparent deficit of around £14,500 is not however as bad as it looks. The Church uses a cash accounting system, where the records show funds in and out as at the precise year end dates. At the end of August we had not received the tax refund on gift-aided giving during the year, for example – a figure of almost £11,000 which was paid in September – which might rightly be included in our 2010-11 income total. Similarly, some of the expenditure that occurred early in the year actually related to income received before September 2010.



Total income received 01 September 2010 to 31 August 2011



Total expenditure incurred 01 September 2010 to 31 August 2011

The 2011-12 year has started very well, with receipt of the tax refund described above and some very generous donations in September and October. These include grants of £8,000 and £5,000 from Rank Trust and the Stockport and Manchester District respectively, towards the continuing work of our full-time worker with children and young people.

Nonetheless, we must not be complacent. We have considerable planned expenditure in 2011-12, including kitchen flat roof repairs, replacement notice boards and some new windows, and we must also be prepared for potential reduced café income, lettings and congregational giving as domestic purse strings are tightened. Looking further ahead over the next five years, with planned property maintenance to keep our building in the good condition that's enjoyed by church users and the wider community and the on-going costs of our layworker's activities, the finance committee recommends that we need to raise approximately £15,000 a year above the average income we have achieved in recent years. To this end, a gift day will be held on Saturday 21 April, especially to encourage donations towards sustaining our youth work.

We are very grateful to everyone who supports the work of the Church through personal giving and welcome all efforts to maximise the resources contributed through the use of gift aid envelopes. However small your contribution, if you are a tax payer (be that through PAYE or deductions from your state pension), then please do use a gift aid envelope so that the Church can claim a further 25p for every £1 you give. Thank you.

Kate MacLean
Chairman, Finance Committee