

Financial Review 2016-17

Kate MacLean, Chair of the Finance Committee

The text below is an extract from an article prepared for the March 2018 BMC Magazine

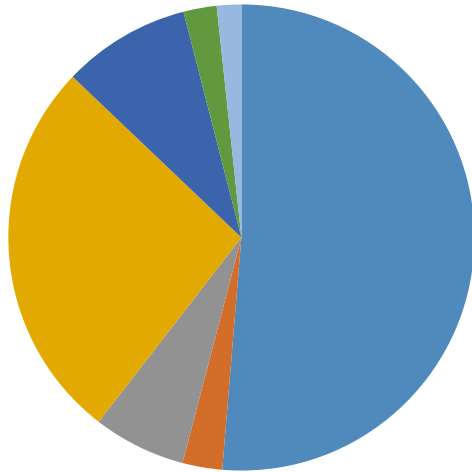
The Methodist Church financial year runs from 01 September to 31 August. The pie charts overleaf provide some detail about our income and expenditure for the year ended 31 August 2017, and table below compares our performance to last year's. In summary, in 2016/17 our total expenditure exceeded our income by £16,753, so we had to use our reserves to cover our costs. Thanks to generous bequests and donations in previous years, we do have adequate reserves to keep us going, but all the same, it's concerning that we are 'living beyond our means'.

The largest element of expenditure is our Circuit assessment, which is the Buxton congregation's contribution towards the salary costs of our Minister, upkeep of the Manse and payments to the Connexion (Methodist HQ). Last year this amounted to £48,927 and was adequately covered by offerings (the collection plate and regular giving by standing order or through the envelope scheme), topped up by tax reclaimed through the Gift Aid scheme. However, this is only about a third of our expenditure; we also have to cover the costs of our staff and premises.

It is not all doom and gloom. Thanks to good management, we do have reserves and our five-year forecast shows that we'll still have around £90,000 by the end of the 2021/22 financial year!

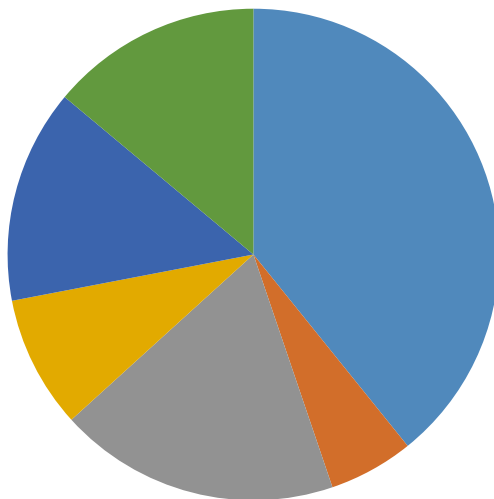
	2015/16	2016/17	Variance
Receipts			
Offerings and tax recovered	£62,505	£55,441	£-7,064
Legacies & special donations	£64,365	£2,981	£-61,384
Investment income & interest	£5,835	£6,936	£1,101
Lettings	£26,783	£28,774	£1,991
Café	£9,500	£9,600	£100
Wedding & funeral fees	£2,000	£2,490	£490
Other (personal photocopies, rice sales, magazine adverts etc)	£2,228	£1,832	£-396
Total income	£173,216	£108,054	
Payments			
Circuit assessment (£48,927)	£48,270	£48,927	£657
Donations (our charitable giving) (£6,970)	£5,340	£6,970	£1,630
Maintenance & upgrading, inc organ (£23,065)	£44,518	£23,065	£-21,453
Utilities: gas, electric, water, insurance (£10,881)	£13,922	£10,881	£-3,041
Caretaking costs (£17,577)	£16,898	£17,577	£679
Other staff, young people & admin costs (£17,387)	£19,914	£17,387	£-2,527
Total expenditure	£148,862	£124,807	
Surplus / overspend	£24,354	£-16,753	

Total income 2016/17: £108,054



- Offerings and tax recovered (£55,441)
- Legacies & special donations (£2,981)
- Investment income & interest (£6,936)
- Lettings (£28,774)
- Café (£9,600)

Total expenditure 2016/17: £124,807



- Circuit assessment (£48,927)
- Donations (our charitable giving) (£6,970)
- Maintenance & upgrading, inc organ (£23,065)
- Utilities: gas, electric, water, insurance (£10,881)
- Caretaking costs (£17,577)
- Other staff, young people & admin costs (£17,387)

...Overspend: £16,753