



**From the
Desk of the
Chaplain,
the Revd.
Canon
Patrick
Curran**

Last night (as I write this) the chaplaincy council signed off on the budget for 2020. Although our Treasurer was unable to be present in person at the meeting we were able through the gift of modern technology to enjoy his presence with us as he presented the Treasurer's report and took us through the final draft of the 2020 budget. It is important that we all understand that the budget tells a story: the concrete working out of how we as a church are participating in God's mission. If you want to better understand our mission I would point in the direction of our Mission Statement, which you can find on the church website.

Through the budget we affirmed our commitment to employing a Youth and Young Adults Worker, as well as continuing to participate in the intern Ministerial Experience Scheme in the light of our good experiences with the scheme over the last two years. Last year we had to replace the boiler in the church shop (the Ovesa rooms). The bill for the boiler was paid

this year. During the year we will also update the office computers having been advised by experts that this is long overdue. In fact, we had planned to replace the computers last year. We also committed to supporting the initiative to support extending the work of the National Ecumenical Council of Churches in Austria.

The impact of having to move the bazaar also affected us. The venue was much more expensive than the Bundesamtsgebäude. The team who managed last year's bazaar did a fabulous job with an excellent result with only diminished by the costs incurred by the new venue.

As I write we are looking at other options to reduce costs and increase space. Common Fund continues to pose a challenge. Common Fund is the amount we pay to the diocese as a congregation of the Diocese in Europe, so that our diocese can meet its responsibilities as a diocese of the Church of England. We have also affirmed our continuing commitment to giving 10



percent of our income to charities that are in line with the Gospel priorities. We have also decided that Common Fund should not be more than the amount we pay to the charities we support.

We remain committed to the music programme at Christ Church and are thankful for our organist and choir director and the work that they put in to achieve as high a standard as possible. The jazz infused services continue and are in their second year.

In terms of outreach we are continuing with the se-

ries of talks at the United Nations in Vienna entitled UNcomplicated and the panel sessions addressing a wider public under the heading of Theology on Tap. During the year our present intern introduced a meditative/reflective service on a monthly basis. We also held a St Valentine's service for married couples at which they were invited to affirm their marriage vows (see pp 10-11). We will continue to focus on our stewardship of creation in the Lent groups, which we began back in September by participating in Creationtide. Another initiative that may be of interest to some is that since Advent we have been using the Book of Common Prayer readings at the 8.00 service of Holy Communion.

Naturally more information concerning the budget and our various activities will be made available at the

upcoming Annual General Meeting. One development that gives rise for concern is that our expenditure is more than our income.

Presently this is manageable, but as a council we are working to ensure that while we seek to participate as fully as possible as a congregation in God's mission to the world we remain good stewards. We are investing today for tomorrow, but we also want to balance the budget.

Actually, we want to do more than balance the budget. In this connection I have a number of requests.

One, consider joining the planned giving scheme as a matter of urgency if you haven't done so.

Two, if you didn't increase your giving last year as result of the stewardship campaign (time, talents



and treasure) I would ask you to consider doing it ASAP and by at least ten euros a month, so that we can begin to address the budget deficit and move to returning a surplus as in previous years. Three, do we have any person or persons amongst us willing or to contribute to reducing last year's shortfall? Four, make sure that Christ Church is a beneficiary of your will.

There is a conviction that won't let me go. What is this conviction? The conviction is that within our church the means are there amongst our members, associates, supporters and friends to cover our budget deficit and more.

Finally, I want to thank all who tirelessly and generously give of themselves in God's service to ensure that Christ Church remains strong and vibrant. We are a living community. Over the last weeks and months I have heard time and time again how friendly and welcoming the congregation is. A challenge remains: How can we as a welcoming community ensure that newcomers move from being welcomed to belonging? Can you play your part?

With every good wish and blessing,

