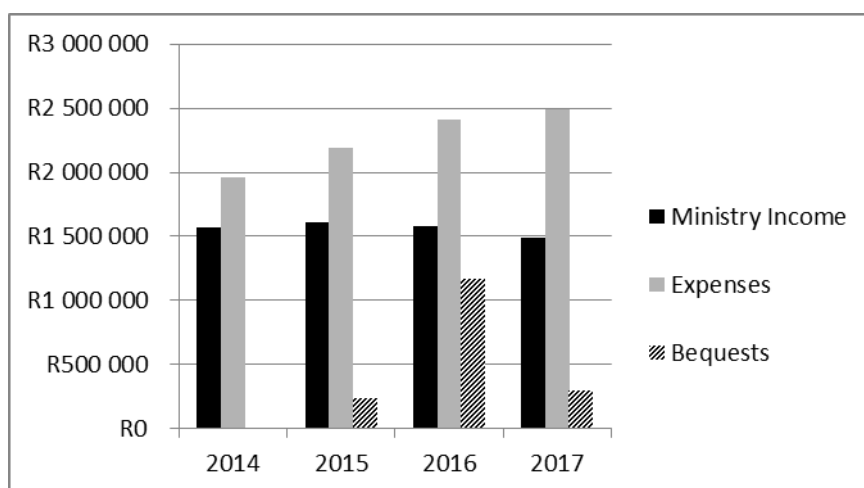


Pledge Letter from Church Wardens – August 2018

From Luke 6:38 *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

Following on from last year’s theme of our historic debt and the ‘Unsure Future’, the Church has experienced yet another year of increased losses. The disparity between Ministry Income and Church Expenditure continues and, for the financial year-ending December 2017, the Church recorded a further loss due to a drop in Ministry Income while our Expenses continued to rise due to inflation.

The below column chart graphically displays the comparison between our Ministry Income and our overall Church Expenditure over the past four years. (Please note that the Income excludes Non-Ministry income, such as rents and hall-hires, while the Expenditure figures exclude expenses of a capital nature on our plant as this is funded from reserves from the previous sale of land.)



As can be seen, Ministry Income has gradually declined over the past three years whereas Church Expenditure continues to rise. Fortunately we have been mightily blessed with a number of generous Bequests over the past few years, which has helped the Church meet its expenses. Over the past four years these Bequests totalled a little over R1.7 million while our combined losses for the same period totalled R1,43 million.

These bequests have enabled the Church to continue to fund our various outreach programmes and charities over the years as well as fund the regular and necessary maintenance of our beautiful buildings and grounds.

To put the above in perspective, we include an extract from Father Keith’s Report to Vestry in February this year .. *“I know of no Anglican Church today which can thrive, if not survive, dependent purely on dedicated giving, through tithe, pledge and collection plate. Churches also depend on hiring, letting, donations and fundraising to supplement traditional revenue streams. I must thank all the faithful givers in our parish and pray that you will continue to bless the existence, mission and ministry of our church through your generosity. If we want to fulfil our vision to become a preferred and leading church for all generations we not only need sacrificial giving from parishioners but also need to look for other opportunities to raise money as well.”*

While it remains difficult to estimate Ministry Income from ‘pledge and plate’ each year for budgetary purposes, the Council reminds the congregation to assist us by ensuring the dedicated giving forms are used when prayerfully considering what to pledge. These forms can be handed in on Dedication Sunday.

We conclude by reminding you of the Church’s Vision Statement: **We will become a church whose people are united in the desire to know and obey God’s particular will for us and in so doing by the power of the Holy Spirit to bring Christ’s salvation, healing, compassion and peace into a society transformed by Him.**

Ian Paul
Hugh Nourse
CHURCHWARDENS

CONFIDENTIAL

- Please tick those ministries in which you would like to serve in the year ahead.
- If you are already serving in any ministry and are committed to continue in the year ahead, please tick those to renew your commitment

INREACH: Caring for our members		MARKETING & PROJECTS		TRANSFORMATION: Spiritual development	
Care for the elderly		Website updating		Lay ministry	
Sunday teas		Parish office help		Music	
Parish functions		Graphic design		Reading	
Sat Women’s Fellowship		PR and communication		Service coordination	
Men’s Fellowship		Social media		Bible Study courses	
Children’s Ministry		Fundraising Events		House church leadership	
Teenager’s Ministry				Prayer diary compilation	
Prayer groups		OUTREACH: Attracting new members		TRANSFORMATION: Social development	
Sidesperson /welcomer		Newcomer services & events		Sewing classes	
Transport		Youth programmes		Fikelela	
Gardening		Enrichment courses		Pollsmoor prison	
Flower arranging		Singles Centre		Red Cross Hospital Sandwiches	
Sacristan duties		Messy Church Catering		Environment	
Money counting/banking		Messy Church Music		Rondebosch Police	
Care for pew books		Messy Church Activities		Interaction with other churches/faiths	
Power point operations				Retired clergy and wider church functions	

I/we (please PRINT)

commit to give R per month to God through St Thomas’s Church in the year ahead.

I/we require a set of Pledge envelopes or I/we will transfer per EFT

Signed: _____

(Please bring this completed form with you to church on Dedication Sunday, September 23rd or deliver to the church office)