



Our Ministry Area Financial Position

The Context

Since the MA was formed **costs** have been **going up**, **attendance** has been **falling** and so **income** is **falling**. We risk having to close one or more churches in the next 3 to 5 years.

The running **costs** of the MA are largely **fixed** irrespective of the number of services and other activities in the MA buildings and the number of people attending them.

Your giving funds **only** the **clergy** and their associated employment and training costs (55% of total) and the **running costs** of your church – keeping it safe and open for services and other uses.

Where are we now?

As an MA we are **increasingly** subsidising ourselves. We **only** have 3 years' reserves left.

Closing a church would transfer the fixed costs onto the remaining churches but the income would not necessarily transfer... People might stop going or go elsewhere so the costs borne by each remaining church would go up.

While running costs are fixed, income is not; it varies with attendances.

We have a growing population – we **want** to keep churches open as a witness to our faith

Currently giving is an average of £45 per person per month or £10 per week. To break even, and assuming no decrease in attendance, needs an **average** of £70 per person per month **every** month

Where do we want to be?

- To be able to keep all our churches open by at least breaking even every year
- To have enough money to fund our growth and mission activities

Why are we not there already?

Quite simply: 1) we are not giving enough on a regular basis

2) where there is growth, it is uneven.

What do we need to do?

We need to increase the amount and regularity of giving (preferably by GiftDirect) from the average of £45 to an **average of £70 per month every month**. Some will not be able to afford this, but others may feel that they can give more to help.

We need to support our growth efforts – our local ministries and our Action Teams who need your help.

We need to do more to draw people into our buildings for other community activities – even starting small – and engage more people in the community to help our funding.

Further Information;

Please speak to your church treasurer or Mike Gill, the MA Treasurer on 07929 687368.

Rev'd Sandra Birdsall, Rev'd Mary Evans, Fr Edward Owen, Rev'd Ruth Coombs