

PARISH OF FOURWAYS GARDENS, ALL SAINTS

FINAL VERIFIER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The Parish has had a year of achievement, with a cash surplus of R286 625 after tax and a reduction in the core borrowings of R266 788.

The draft budget for 2024 also shows a surplus.

The Diocesan investment of R145 995 has been written down to R1 in recognition of the non-recoverability of this investment.

ACCOUNTS FOR 2023

The purchase of computers was funded from Special Projects income to reflect a Nil value in the books. It is recommended that the computers be recorded in the Asset Register at their original costs for record keeping purposes.

CREDIT BALANCES AT DECEMBER 2023

There are many accounts with small credit balances at December, eg Blanket Outreach, 100 Club, Offerings for Distribution, Messy Church etc. It would be preferable if these were written back in 2024 if not required to be spent.

There are credit balances arising from two insurance claims where the rectification costs have not been incurred, amounting to R71 451. Of these, the most important one is for R34 263 in respect of roof repairs. The cause of past water ingress and damage should be checked in order to identify a remedy which will avoid future storm damage, which is understood not to be covered by the Insurer.

STAFF

There are two fulltime staff members paid through the Diocese and would be covered by UIF and WCA. In addition there are three parttime workers who handle garden duties, cleaning etc and who are paid through the Petty Cash. No cover is available in respect of occupational accidents, unemployment etc. No staff are on any retirement or savings schemes, with the exception of the Verger, who enjoyed a contributory savings scheme, deposited with the Diocese and which has been lost in the current financial crisis.

OTHER DEBITS AND CREDITS

- Funds owing by the Scouts of R19 800 at December are slowly being repaid with an amount of R10 000 received in January.

- Deposits owing to the SDA of R13 399 and additional funds received during COVID amounting to R19694 are shown in the Fund Accounts and Creditors.

IMPACT ON 2024 AND GOING FORWARD.

-Loss of invested cash, earmarked to provide for the retirement of the Verger, and being contributed to by both parties amounted to R130452. It is recommended that the Parish address the issue of replacing these funds. As it stands, the Verger has taken loans of R23200 against this Fund and it appears as though there is no set repayment plan for this amount.

-Adverse impact on both the Rector and staff employed by the Parish. It is understood that neither the Rector nor the staff have had a stipendiary or salary review for around the last five years, due to the current borrowings position of the Parish. Based on current surpluses, it will take a number of years before the overdraft is fully repaid. To expect both the current Rector and staff to continue to "pay" for the past excesses for a period which could be up to ten years, must constitute an unfair labour practice, particularly as neither party can be seen as being responsible for the events that led up to the excessive borrowings in the first place. Rather this seems to stem from the failure of the Diocese to exercise good stewardship in the effective oversight of a problem Parish.

A reference to Luke 10 v7 and 1 Tim 5 v18 would not be out of place.

APPRECIATION

My appreciation for the time given to enable me to complete this verification.


ANR CHRISTIE

DIOCESAN INDEPENDENT VERIFIER

28 JANUARY 2024