**Treasurer’s Annual Report October 2019**

We have already received over £50,000 in personal donations to the Annexe Fund. Thanks to the twice-weekly efforts of Peter, assisted by Bill and more recently Tracey, the latest Charity Plant Stalls contribution to this is £2192, received in October 2019.

All this sacrificial giving has, I feel sure, been a persuasive factor in securing grants worth almost £345,000 so far, thus reaching almost £600,000 in overall donations, grants and firm promises. However, it may have had a negative effect on our general finances.

Whilst our General Fund expenditure has reduced in the year ending 31/08/2019, our income has unfortunately also gone down -- andto a greater extent:

* Offertory giving has fallen by around £2000 (6.6%) with a corresponding drop in Gift Aid.
* Income from rents, which was around £10,000 three years ago, has fallen to zero with the Nether Gardens property now being used as a manse and the Bonsall cottage having been sold.
The approx. £1200 interest we receive on the proceeds of sale of the cottage is a fraction of the £4400 p.a. we used to get when we had a tenant.
* Income from social events and donations has fallen, probably because money is being given to the Annexe Fund instead.
* Lettings income is *up* by 42%, thanks to Lesley’s encouragement of U3A groups.

In terms of expenditure, there has been a small overall rise due to inflation. But otherwise:

* Chapel utilities bills have decreased (thoughrepair costs are higher due to replacing the water heater);
* We have reached the end of the big bills for improving the manse.
* There are no more solicitor’s bills (except those charged to the annexe account).
* We are making savings by no longer using the minibus
* What a shame that it cost us £880 to cut down four trees in the cemetery!

So, the year just ended has seen a **shortfall of almost £7000** on our General Account, resulting in a balance of just under £7663 when our intended reserve should be £15,000.

*Rob Few*