



welcome
CHURCH

Finance Update
June 2025

“But since you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you - see that you also excel in this grace of giving”

2 CORINTHIANS 8:7

Money was something both Jesus and Paul spoke about a lot. Both placed a big emphasis on handling it responsibly, and on giving it generously and with faith. The Bible makes it clear that generosity is a discipleship issue for us all - it's a heart issue, intimately connected to our relationship with God.

As a Church we've been blessed with lots of generous giving, although there remains a very real and pressing need to grow our giving in order to do all that we're called to do.

We want to keep you well informed about our finances as a church, and that's why you're receiving this booklet. It focuses on:

- How much we have
- Where it is being spent
- Our future needs
- How you can get involved

The information given here is both simple and concise, and I believe you will find it informative and faith-inspiring. Thanks in advance for reading this through!

If you have any questions after reading, please do get in touch with Robin Willison, our Exec. Pastor at robin@welcomechurch.uk

I am confident that God has a great future for us as a church, and there are many people He wants to reach through us. Let's step out in faith together to see it done, including with our generous giving.



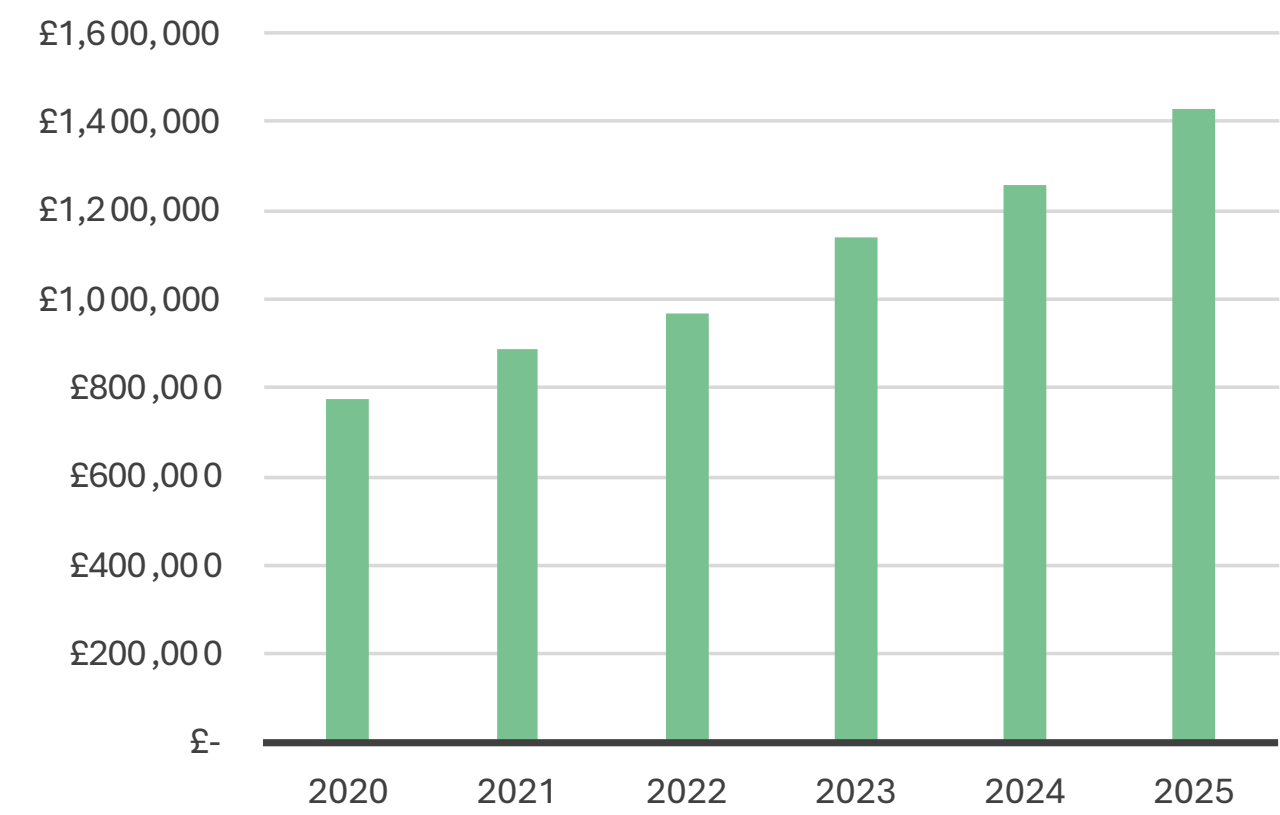
Steve Petch, Lead Elder

On behalf of the Elders and Trustees

First, a big thank you for the past

Over the past five years, our regular income as a church has almost doubled. This comes mainly from people’s consistent generous giving, and is our financial foundation as a church. Thank you so much.

Regular Giving



Your gifts have been focused on helping us fulfil our vision of seeing **Life Transformed Through Jesus**, with Him at the centre of everything we do as a church. This includes our Sunday meetings, kids and youth work, mid-week church life, courses, special events such as our Carol Services, Lifegroups, our Welcome Works ministries such as Welcome Café and Job Club, and a whole lot more!

During the past financial year our congregation gave **over £1.3 million**, including tax refunds under the Gift Aid scheme. **This was made possible through:**

471	individuals or couples making gifts to Welcome Church
264	individuals or couples giving on a regular basis - mainly by standing order
319	allowing us to claim a tax refund through the HMRC Gift Aid scheme – adding 25% to every gift for which Gift Aid is claimed

This figure of over £1.3 million increases to above **£1.4 million** when we add in bank interest on our cash deposits and some income from building hires.

This may seem like a lot of money and it is, **but** it is also a little low for a church of our size, located where we are in the world.

We do have a strong history of being a generous church and in addition to our regular giving, there have been several occasions in recent years when large amounts have also been given for specific projects, such as the building of our Chapel and the purchase of Church Gate. Since 2018, our congregation has given just over £5 million towards these projects! That’s amazing, and it’s not too late should you wish to make a gift for our Church Gate project.

How things stand today

The following is a summary of how our finances stand at the end of March 2025, the end of our financial year. The figures below are not yet audited but are based on our management accounts. Our audited Financial Statements will be published later in the year.

The following shows **what we own, what we owe and what our money has been spent on.**

Our assets - what we own

In round numbers, the main elements of this are:

The value of our property	£9.0m
Money that is ours	£1.7m

- Most of the money we hold is designated for specific areas, including:
- The refurbishment and fit-out of **Church Gate** – this will cost roughly £1.2 million. The amount we have allocated for this so far includes a grant of £80,000 received from Benefact Trust
 - Our **reserves (a legal requirement)** – £300,000 set aside to cover unforeseen events
 - Costs we may incur as we aim to create more space for **Sunday meetings**
 - Investing in an increased number of **employed staff** – this is now a pressing need
 - Covering any **Community Grocery** trading shortfalls in its early years, as we learn how it works

Our liabilities – what we owe

Mortgages	£3.6m
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We have two mortgages, one for the Chapel and one for Church Gate, and we’re repaying them over the next 15 and 20 years. Originally these totalled £4 million so we’re already making good progress in repaying them.

What we have spent your gifts on over the past year

The overall costs of our employed staff (not just salaries)	£530,000
Church activities	£195,000
Running the buildings (utilities, maintenance etc)	£105,000
External giving (giving that goes outside of the church)	£77,000
Other costs (insurance, audit and consumables etc.)	£38,000

The balance

Our income, minus our expenditure for the year, left us with enough to cover mortgage repayments of **£325,000**, and left a surplus of **£160,000**, which will be crucial for our future as you will see next.

Looking to the future

Every year, the Trustees consider and approve a budget for the coming financial year. They also look at the likely income and expenditure for the following three years.

This year we discussed the need for our costs to increase to support the growing activities of our growing church, principally including:

- Additional essential staffing – adding £250,000 each year from 2026
- Expanding our services to the community, especially through the Community Grocery and our Welcome Works programmes
- Increasing capacity to accommodate more people, particularly on Sundays

This means our income needs to grow to around £1.6m this coming financial year – an increase of around 12%. Simply put, this equates to an additional £12 for every £100 currently being given.

We anticipate our income needing to continue growing at a similar rate over the following two years. Although this need could be reduced by grants received to help cover the Church Gate and Community Grocery expenses, we cannot rely on these.



Questions you may have

How will we grow our income?

There are two main ways:

1. for individuals and couples to review their giving and increase it in line with pay rises, and to go beyond that as their faith and their heart for generosity grows
2. for new people to start to give, including people who are new to the church

It's worth noting that our growth in numbers has been greater than the growth in giving, and this becomes even more apparent when we take inflation into account. It's time for us to step up in faith again!



Why do we need to employ more staff?

Larger churches like ours generally need around 1 member of staff for every 75 adults and children who attend, which would mean around 14 full-time equivalent staff. We currently employ only 8, and they are understandably under significant pressure. Our rapid numerical growth means we have fallen a long way behind and urgently need to catch up. As it stands the church has doubled in size over the last 5 years, but the staff team is slightly smaller than it was 5 years ago - this is not sustainable!

Because of this, our plan is to take on:

- An Associate Pastor to oversee our pastoral programme, including our Lifegroups
- A Youth and Children's Pastor to serve those leading activities for our under-18s
- A Grocery Manager

We also need to take on several part-time roles including:

- A Safeguarding Manager – essential given our size and the breadth of our activities
- A Finance Manager – to bring further finance experience and free up operational capacity
- A Grocery Support Worker – who may also support our overall catering requirements
- Additional administrative and operational staff to support all our activities

Of course, as we continue to grow in numbers, our need for staff will continue to increase, alongside our need for more volunteers. We also don't know what else God may have planned for us in the future! God promises to provide for all our needs according to His riches in glory, so we have faith that He will release what we need. We also know that this will mainly come through the generosity of those, like you, who call Welcome Church your church.

How do I give to support the work of God through Welcome Church?

There are several ways that you can give to Welcome Church; please find the one that works best for you. Most people choose to give by standing order which is convenient and has the lowest costs to us in terms of bank fees and administration.

Giving by bank transfer or regular standing order

To give by **bank transfer** or to set up a **regular standing order**, either visit your bank branch or set it up yourself via online or telephone banking, or via your mobile phone banking app.

Our details:

Account Name:	Welcome Church
Sort Code:	20-97-58
Account Number:	30267554
Reference:	your name

Giving by Card

If you wish to give by **card**, there are several ways you can do this.

1. Using our **online giving page** - welcomechurch.uk/give
This allows you to enter your gift amount, select if it's for our general fund or a specific appeal, decide if you want to make it a one-off or a repeating gift, and to declare your Gift Aid status
2. Through the **QR code** on the back of all the chairs in our building
3. Using the **giving points** in our buildings.
If you are giving this way, please include your name in the notes section of the card machine so we can identify you and apply Gift Aid if possible.



Giving via the My ChurchSuite app

You can also give via card using the My ChurchSuite App. To do this, open the My ChurchSuite app and go to "My Giving" in the menu, then click on the "Donate" button near the top of the screen.

Giving by cheque or cash

If you wish to give by cheque or cash, place these in one of the metal boxes at the giving points in our buildings. Please place your cash gift in an envelope and write your name on it, so we can identify that it is from you and apply Gift Aid if possible.

If you have any questions about giving or Gift Aid, please chat to Darren Forsdyke or email us on finance@welcomechurch.uk

A man with short dark hair, wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt, is speaking into a microphone on a stage. He is smiling and gesturing with his left hand. In the foreground, the back of a person's head with curly hair is visible. The background is a blurred stage setting.

Gift Aid

Making your gift go even further!

Gift Aid is a simple way for Welcome Church to increase the value of gifts we receive from UK taxpayers by 25%, so that for every £100 you give, we receive an extra £25 at no extra cost to you!

How does Gift Aid work?

If you are a UK taxpayer, you will have paid tax on your income. Through Gift Aid we can claim back the tax you paid on the money you give. You do not have to pay any extra tax or give any extra to us, but your gift is increased by 25%! This is a legal, UK scheme, authorised by the UK Government to help support churches and charities like ours

What do I need to do?

We need your permission to claim Gift Aid on your gifts, and you only need to give us this permission once. Simply fill in our Gift Aid form by visiting www.welcomechurch.uk/give

**“Remember this:
Whoever sows sparingly
will also reap sparingly,
and whoever sows
generously will also
reap generously. Each
of you should give what
you have decided in
your heart to give, not
reluctantly or under
compulsion, for God
loves a cheerful giver”**
2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7



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