

Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr

Notes of Parish Forum

Meeting on May 4th 2021, 8pm-9.30pm on Zoom (virtual meeting), convened by Fr Jonathan and Chaired by Adrian Wyn-Griffiths. 30 parishioners attended.

1. Parish Finances

Rory Flynn presented an overview of parish finances. He highlighted the steady growth in the income stream over the years from 2013, with Offertory as the main source of income, and a drop in 2020 Offertory income due to the pandemic. He noted an increase in outgoings related to quinquennial spend, audio-visual system at St Joseph's and cost of Parish Assistant. Overall, the balance sheet shows a reasonable reserve of approx. £49K for 2020 (as compared with £66K in 2019). Rory was thanked for his work on parish finances, and Eileen Hudson for her work on gift aid.

The summary accounts follow at the end of these notes.

2. Parish Vision

Fr Jonathan has reflected on parish visions from previous decades and has shared a draft version on which he has received several comments from parishioners. He considers the proposal to be 'a work in progress' and it will be reviewed further by the new Parish Pastoral Team (members to be announced shortly). FrJ opened the floor to further comments and several parishioners made suggestions.

3. Looking forward

Several areas were highlighted by Fr Jonathan.

- (a) He described the next stage of parish life as 'accompanying each other as we emerge from the pandemic'. An important task is care and concern for each other given that people move at different speeds, and some with considerable anxiety.
- (b) The parish database will be migrated to a new cloud-based platform – ChurchSuite - which should enable better communication, and easier compliance with GDPR other regulations.
- (c) The process of reviewing parish buildings will resume with the formation of a new group (members to be announced shortly) which is due to meet in June.
- (d) Fr Jonathan plans to form a steering group to develop our support for families and young children, and to review our sacramental and liturgical life.
- (e) There is a plan to hold a parish get-together in August in Elstead, COVID permitting.
- (f) The next parish forum will take place after the summer, hopefully in person.

4. Question & Answer session

Various issues were raised:

- How to encourage young families back to church: the need to consider the wider issues around the church/young families and the availability of many resources in this area; consider a children's Mass online with words to encourage singing; consider use of personalised welcome messages to invite families back
- Fr Jonathan confirmed that there is interest in getting bumps/babes back up and running
- Fr Jonathan commented that fresh new noticeboards outside St Joseph's and St Edmund's might help communicate that we are open and welcoming
- The effect of online worship and the impact of high levels of anxiety on our church attendance
- Parish outreach - in the form of the contribution made by LOAF and by the *livesimply* group – was widely praised.

Parish Financial Report for 2020 with historic data

	2021 Budget	2020 Actuals	2019 Actuals	2018 Actuals	2017 Actuals	2016 Actuals	2015 Actuals	2014 Actuals	2013 Actuals
Offertory and Collections	65,000	61,504	82,569	84,142	79,031	72,211	73,383	75,262	70,489
Donations and Legacies	2,000	4,933	16,489	5,085	3,429	7,583	4,075	3,849	2,560
Tax Rebates	17,000	16,891	18,905	18,597	17,420	14,566	17,206	14,489	12,355
Other Income	1,400	4,211	4,556	3,237	4,463	3,472	2,480	2,966	3,082
<u>Sub-total Incoming</u>	£85,400	£87,540	£122,518	£111,060	£104,343	£97,832	£97,143	£96,565	£88,486
Personnel, Travel, Domestic Office	-29,500	-26,692	-29,693	-20,133	-17,993	-17,853	-13,959	-15,026	-12,348
Establishment / Property	-37,900	-25,559	-32,988	-48,854	-39,979	-38,348	-18,674	-24,472	-23,769
Liturgy & Pastoral	-21,200	-21,496	-27,444	-29,284	-23,979	-22,703	-24,051	-28,798	-25,736
Welfare / LOAF	-1,000	-1,147	-2,348	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer To Diocese	-20,973	-25,568	-23,924	-19,547	-18,178	-17,046	-16,260	-15,769	-15,328
Other Expense	0	0	-1,845	0	-1,300	0	-1,560	-1,635	-1,230
<u>Sub-total Outgoing</u>	-£115,173	-£104,865	-£123,532	-£125,025	-£106,509	-£99,820	-£77,447	-£88,628	-£81,986
<u>Sum Of Total Amounts</u>	-£29,773	-£17,325	-£1,013	-£13,965	-£2,166	-£1,988	£19,696	£7,937	£6,500

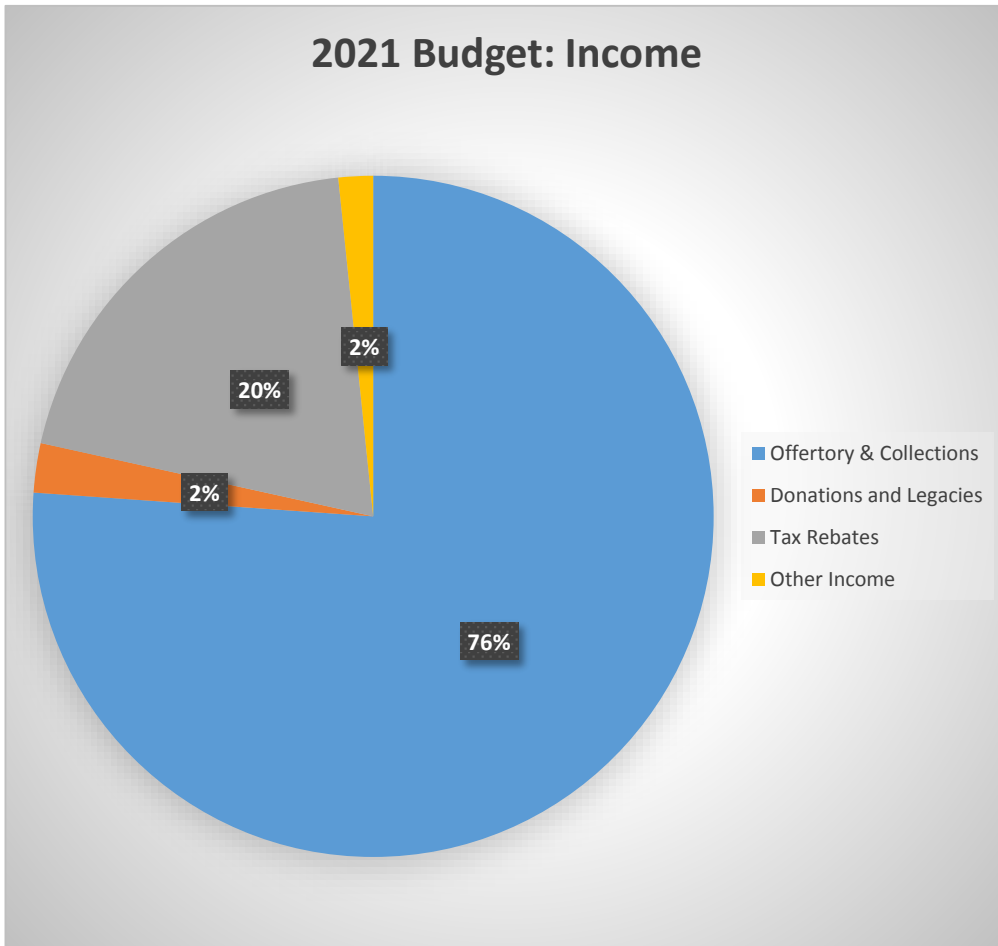
Significant variances B/(W) - 2021 Budget vs 2020 Actuals

	2021 Budget	2020 Actuals		
Total Income	£85,400	£87,540	(£2,140)	No significant changes
Personnel / Travel / Domestic	(£29,500)	(£26,692)	(£2,808)	Modest increases in each of Supply Priest costs, Office salary related and Mileage
Establishment / Property	(£37,900)	(£25,559)	(£12,341)	Reflects an increased provision for ongoing Church premises maintenance
Transfer to Diocese	(£20,973)	(£25,568)	£4,595	The transfer is our share of the central costs of the Diocese which are roughly 1/3 pastoral support & administration, 1/3 support to clergy (retirement, training etc) and 1/3 support for education). The reduction in 2021 takes account of reduced parish offertory in 2020.

Pie Chart

2021 Budget: Income

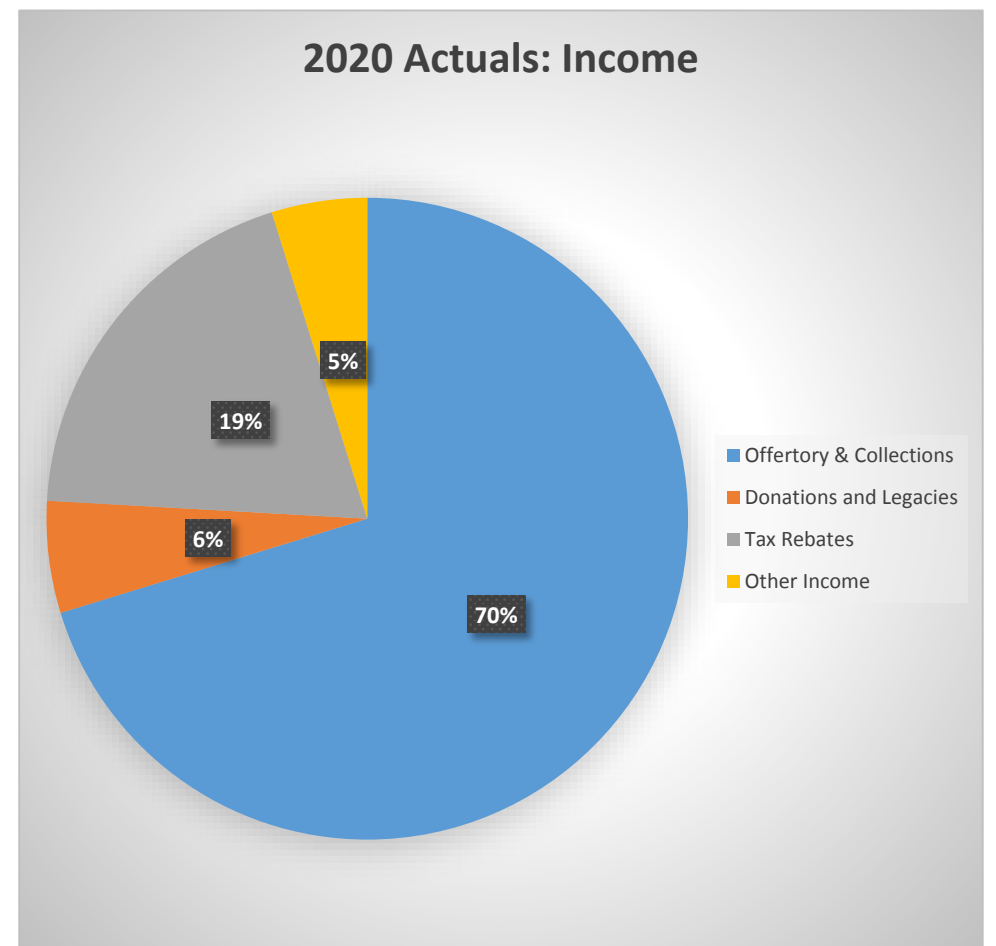
Offertory & Collections	65,000
Donations and Legacies	2,000
Tax Rebates	17,000
Other Income	1,400
	£85,400



Graph Data - Total Income

2020 Actuals: Income

Offertory & Collections	61,504
Donations and Legacies	4,933
Tax Rebates	16,891
Other Income	4,211
	£87,540



Pie Chart

2021 Budget: Outgoings

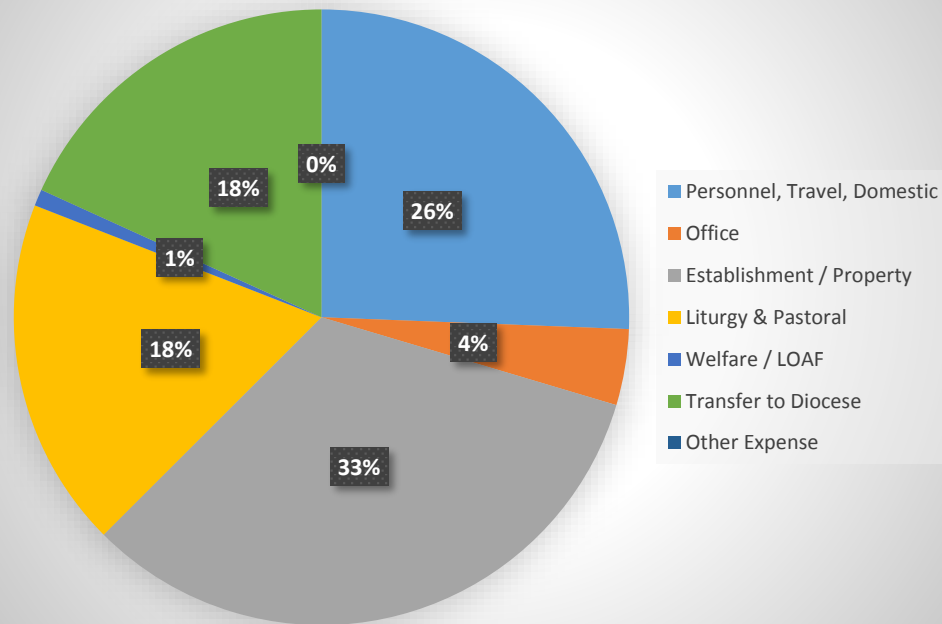
Personnel, Travel, Domestic	29,500
Office	4,600
Establishment / Property	37,900
Liturgy & Pastoral	21,200
Welfare / LOAF	1,000
Transfer to Diocese	20,973
Other Expense	0
Total	£115,173

Graph Data - Total Outgoings

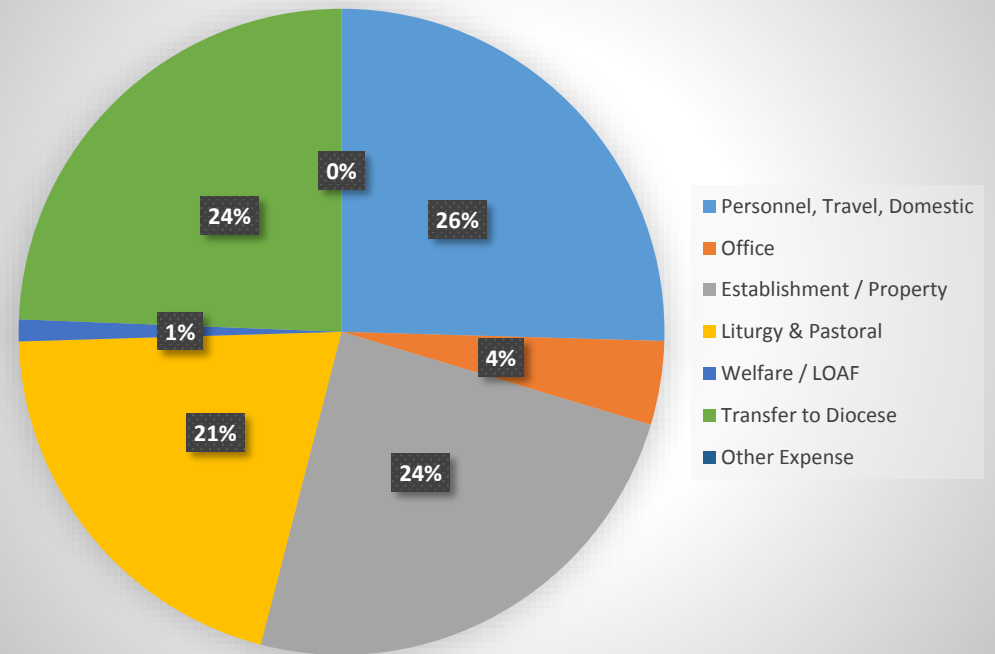
2020 Actuals: Outgoings

Personnel, Travel, Domestic	26,692
Office	4,402
Establishment / Property	25,559
Liturgy & Pastoral	21,496
Welfare / LOAF	1,147
Transfer to Diocese	25,568
Other Expense	0
Total	£104,865

2021 Budget: Outgoings



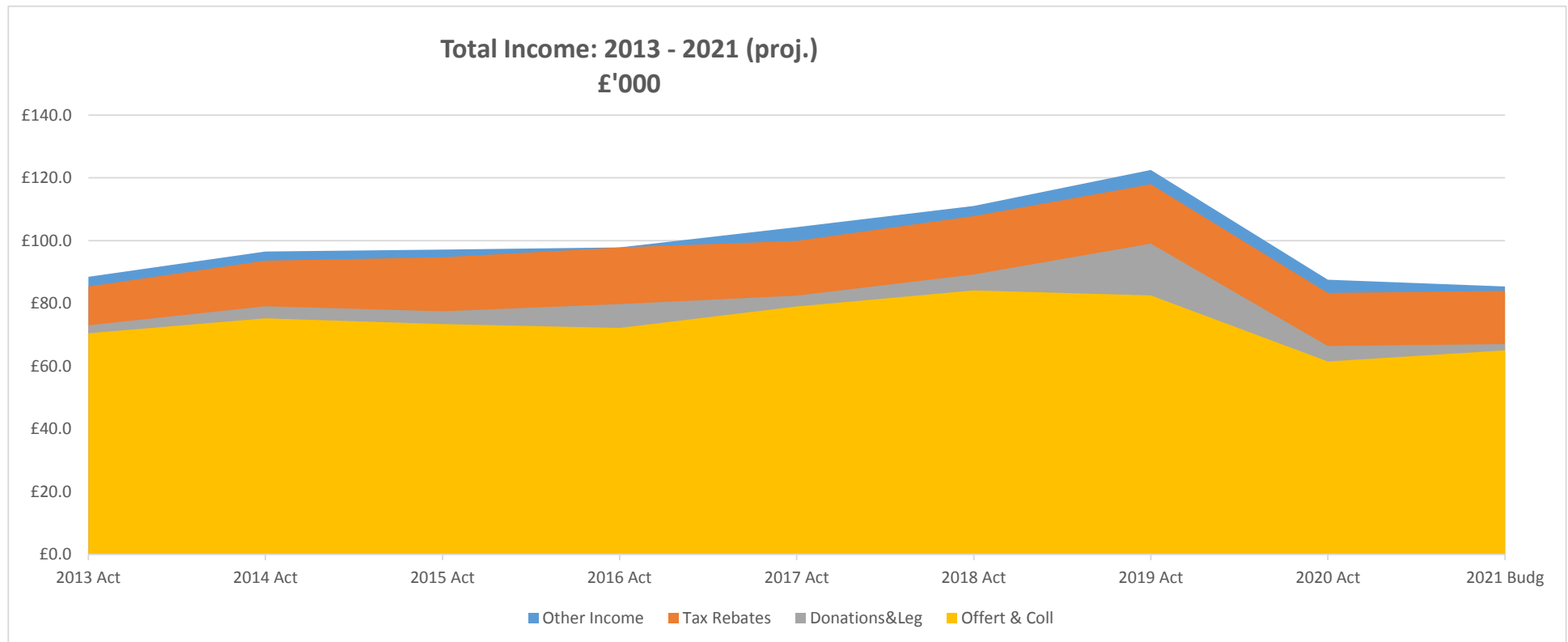
2020 Actuals: Outgoings



Area Chart (£'000)

Graph Data - Total Income

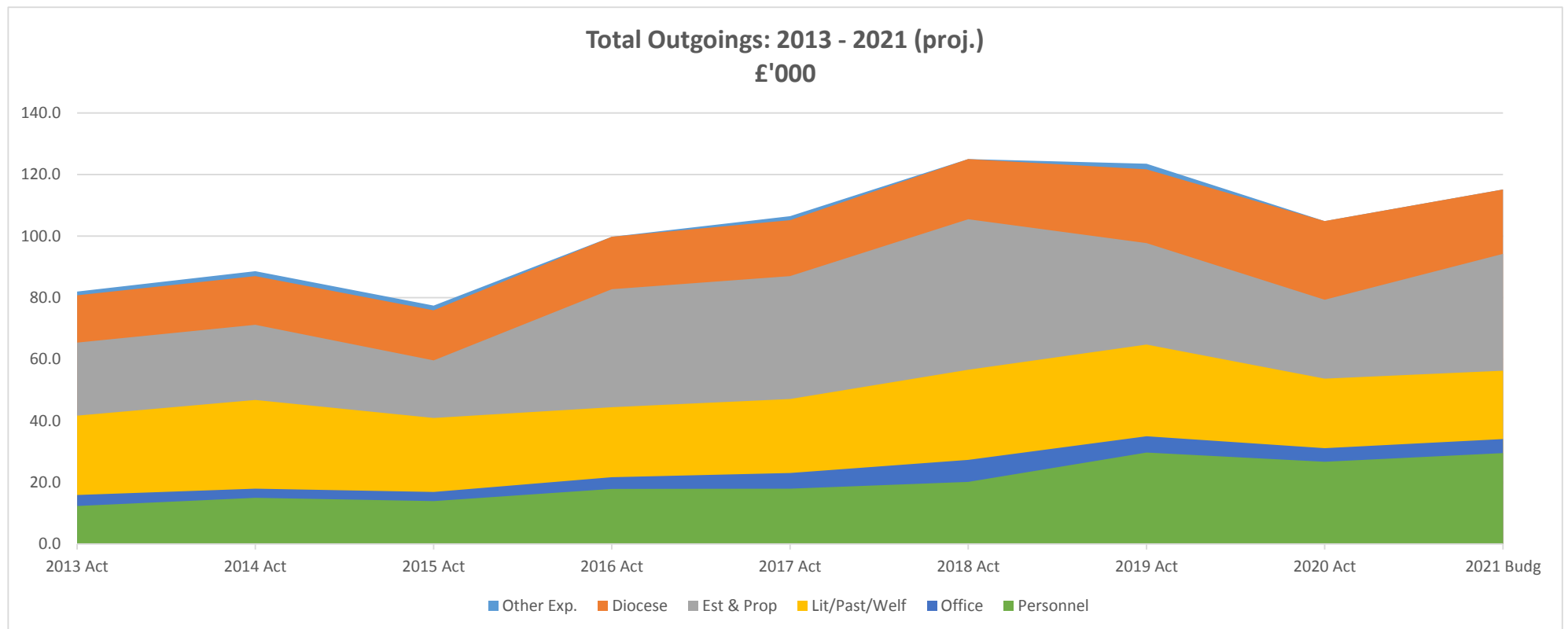
	Other Income	Tax Rebates	Donations&Leg	Offert & Coll
2013 Act	£88.5	£85.4	£73.0	£70.5
2014 Act	£96.6	£93.6	£79.1	£75.3
2015 Act	£97.1	£94.7	£77.5	£73.4
2016 Act	£97.8	£97.8	£79.8	£72.2
2017 Act	£104.3	£99.9	£82.5	£79.0
2018 Act	£111.1	£107.8	£89.2	£84.1
2019 Act	£122.5	£118.0	£99.1	£82.6
2020 Act	£87.5	£83.3	£66.4	£61.5
2021 Budg	£85.4	£84.0	£67.0	£65.0



Area Chart (£'000)

Graph Data - Total Outgoings

	Other Exp.	Diocese	Est & Prop	Lit/Past/Welf	Office	Personnel
2013 Act	82.0	80.8	65.4	41.7	15.9	12.3
2014 Act	88.6	87.0	71.2	46.8	18.0	15.0
2015 Act	77.4	75.9	59.6	41.0	16.9	14.0
2016 Act	99.8	99.8	82.8	44.4	21.7	17.9
2017 Act	106.5	105.2	87.0	47.1	23.1	18.0
2018 Act	125.0	125.0	105.5	56.6	27.3	20.1
2019 Act	123.5	121.7	97.8	64.8	35.0	29.7
2020 Act	104.9	104.9	79.3	53.7	31.1	26.7
2021 Budg	115.2	115.2	94.2	56.3	34.1	29.5



Balance Sheet (accounting basis)

		31-Dec-20	31-Dec-19
		£	£
Cash Book		48,917	66,242
Debtors		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL		<u>48,917</u>	<u>66,242</u>
Restricted Creditors	Due to Clergy	430	0
	Welfare	<u>1,892</u>	<u>0</u>
		2,322	0
General Funds		<u>46,595</u>	<u>66,242</u>
TOTAL		<u>48,917</u>	<u>66,242</u>
Bank Reconciliation		£	£
	Cash Book as of year-end	48,917	66,242
	Add: Cheques not presented and Diocesan recharges due	9,895	5,636
	Deduct: Paying-ins not credited	<u>-5,089</u>	<u>0</u>
	HSBC bank balance as of year-end	<u>53,724</u>	<u>71,878</u>

Summary - Parish Financial Position

Parish Offertory has reflected an increase from 2013 through to 2019. 2020 Actuals and 2021 Budget reflect the ongoing impact of COVID on the Offertory Plate through a reduction in the numbers of people able to attend Holy Mass.

The Parish extends its thanks to those families who have moved their Offertory donation from cash or envelope to standing order.

The financials above reflect the approx £8,952 costs that the Parish has settled during 2016-2019 regarding the feasibility studies and related costs regarding both St Edmund's and St Joseph's Churches. In addition, the Diocese has settled £25,755 costs incurred during 2019 and 2020 which will be repaid as part of the overall project costs. This liability is not reflected on the Parish balance sheet.

The Donations / Legacy income of £16,489 in 2019 reflects a substantial donation from a Parishoner, now deceased.

Maintenance costs have risen since the first initial works to both Churches following the 2014 Quinquennial Reports. Costs have been, and continue to be, limited to Urgent and Health & Safety related items. The 2021 Budget has an allowance for continued maintenance as needed.

We expect to undertake a planned giving appeal at some point in the coming year (gift aid, standing orders, donations) to ensure that we can meet our ongoing plans for mission and parish life.

Many thanks to those who have maintained their giving through the offertory at Mass. And equally, a big thank-you to Eileen Hudson for her excellent work as the gift-aid co-ordinator.

A PDF copy of this report will be available on the Parish website following the Parish forum meeting.