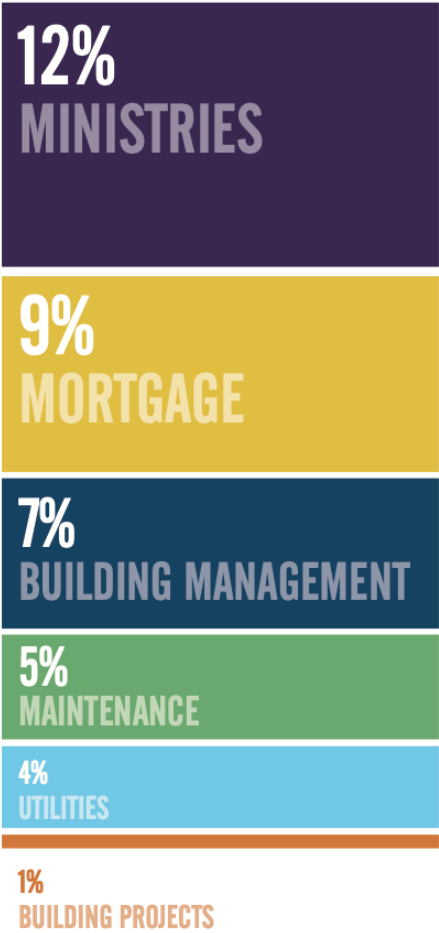


BUDGET 2019-20: HOW IS THE MONEY SPENT?

REGULAR SPEND: £233,001
REGULAR INCOME: £233,001

62%
STAFF



CURRENT ACCOUNT AT JANUARY 2020:

We seek to balance our regular income & our annual spend:

- Regular **Income** Budget: £233,001 - Budget to Jan20: £194,160 - Actual: £173,606, PLUS
- Restricted **Income**: £11,500 (mortgage), and £9,750 (Grant for Community Lunch).
- We will also release £33,038 from Reserves for specific projects.
- Regular **Spend** Budget: £233,001 - Budget to Jan20: £194,160 - Actual: £205,558
- During the year we will also make gifts of £23,300 (10% of Regular Income) - Actual to date: £9,641

10%
GIFTS

£23,300



“A THANKFUL & GENEROUS HEART”

Craig Wood.

1st March 2020

Context / Background:

NEW ERA

God's affirmation:

Examples:

- IMPACT WEEK:
 - Priority people gave to taking part (Time);
 - Saturday morning (Personal Preferences);
 - Sunday collection (Money).
- ~~Centre of Care~~ / CENTRE OF **HOPE** (Servant heart);
- OUR CHURCH FINANCES (Faithfulness).

God's exhortation:

“surely we’re doing pretty well - why do we need to change?”

- Jesus is Lord – speaks of a life fully committed to Him. An ongoing willingness to lay down our own agendas;
- If we’re not moving forward then we’re slipping back.

Introduction:

- We - the people of SCF - are called for a purpose;
- That purpose has been reaffirmed in the vision God has given us as we journey in a “New Era”;
- Fulfilling that purpose - seeing the fruit that God has in store for us - needs us to be obedient and purposeful;
- Each one of us is called by God to,

have a thankful heart, and to be a generous people

SCF's Story / Our "DNA":

- Our history is one of the things which makes us unique;
- it's one of the things that's shaped our "DNA";
- In remembering our history we glorify God and walk in the New Era with a strengthened faith.

"One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts..." Psalm 145:4

The New Era: Fruit:

- God has impressed upon us destinations of travel (Vision Wheel);
- We need to choose to take the journey and trust Him - it's His journey - we're walking with Him;
- The journey is as important as the destination;
- **Greater numbers of people will become disciples - lives & our community will be transformed.**

Why travel:

- God has spoken and we must respond:

"...you are not your own, you were bought at a price..." 1 Corinthians 6:19–20.

How we travel:

- Choosing to trust in God – placing our hand in his and walking with him;
- Nursing the Fire - Partnering with The Holy Spirit;
- Remaining true to the authority of God's Word;
- Our relationships with one another - SCF's special call to be family.

The picture of a table:

“I saw the church and the unchurched seated around a round table. Both were tasting the goodness of God”

- One round table;
- Seated with Christ - experiencing God's goodness;
 - Long established disciples;
 - New disciples;
 - Honoured guests.

Being counter-cultural:

- God's plan is that there is plenty in the world for everyone;
- Big differences:
 - across nations;
 - within nations & within regions;
- “No such thing as a free lunch” / “everything has a price”;
- Grace - Agapē Love - Honour - Freely giving.

Kairos vs Chronos Time:

Partnering with The Holy Spirit - capturing “kairos” moments:

- Eagerly embrace God’s destiny for us;
- Putting our hand in His hand every day;
- Hearing God’s voice & knowing His timing;
- Taking specific time aside every day AND continually coming to Him in prayer.

Money: We are called to give:

We are **ALL** called to give into our home church:

Systemically: Give on a regular basis (1Cor16:1-4);

Proportionally: Give as we have been prospered, according to our ability. (1Cor16:2 / 2Cor8:2-3);

Generously: Being generous in our giving. (2Cor8:2-3 / Phil4:17-18);

Intentionally: Give deliberately to meet a genuine need. (2Cor8:4 / Phil4:16);

Out of love: Give of ourselves out of love. (2Cor8:9.);

Equality: so that everyone's needs can be met. (1Cor9:14-15 / 2Cor8:12-14 + Gal6:6);

As a Blessing: as good stewards so that we can be entrusted to bring more blessing. (2Cor9:6);

Cheerfully: God loves a cheerful giver (2Cor9:7);

Voluntarily: Out of conviction - not from condemnation or coercion. (2Cor8:2-3+8 / 2Cor9:7 / Phil4:18).

We are ALL called to “Tithe” - 10% of income is a good guide

Practical questions

“It’s my money”;

“I give when I can”;

“My family come first; I don’t have any spare money to give”;

“SCF doesn’t really need money from me”;

“I give lots of time and energy, I don’t feel that I need to give money as well”;

“I give money to other charities, outside SCF”;

“Where does all the money go?”;

“How can I be sure the money I give will be spent wisely?”;

“From a practical perspective, what’s the best way for me to give?”.

God is no man’s debtor - we cannot out-give God - we are only giving back some of what He has granted to us.

Summary

Everything we have comes from God;

We are all being called to walk ever closer with God;

What He can do thro' us, will be constrained by our obedience - not by the need in the world for The Kingdom of God;

The people of SCF have always had big hearts - may we continue to be open to His prompting.

Obedience to God's prompting NOT condemnation.

NEW ERA

Tithing: Old Testament

Gen14: 18-20 - Melchizedek blesses Abram

Lev27:30-33 and Num18:21:

- Levites will receive the tithe for their services and for not getting an inheritance of the land
- Levitical Tithe 10%.
- Required - rather than voluntary - primary source of income for the priests

Deut14:22-29:

*** Festival Tithe:**

- A second tithe - on specific days there were feasts - tithe was to buy food to eat and to share with the Levites - a national "pot luck supper"
- Festival Tithe 10%.

*** Welfare Tithe / Poor Tithe:**

- Another tithe offered every third year - for Levites, foreigner, orphan and widow

* Poor Tithe averaging 3.3% pa.

Total of three tithes in excess of 23% of income.

- Tithes given to Levites - no-one else had authority to collect Tithes.

Josephus confirmed that these Tithes were in operation at the time of Christ.

Tithing: Old Testament contd/

2Chr31:5-11: "Since the people began to bring their contributions to the temple of the Lord, we have had enough to eat and plenty to spare, because the Lord has blessed his people, and this great amount is left over" v10

Neh:

- 10:32-39: Commitment by Israel to supporting the temple and those serving there. A tax which was completely separate from the Tithe
- 12:44-47: "all Israel contributed daily portions for the singers and gatekeepers..."
- 13:12: trustworthy men put in charge of the store rooms

Amos4:4. Anticipates Jesus' message in Matt23:23 / Luke18:9-14 - Tithing is in vain if the weightier commands of the Law are ignored.

Mal3:8-18. will a man rob God? **"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouseand see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out such blessing that you will not have enough room for it"** v10

Our motivation for giving should be our desire to honour God

Tithing: New Testament

Matt23:23 (Luke11:42): Specifically addressed to the Scribes and Pharisees. Jesus viewed tithing as part of the Law. Jesus does not prohibit tithing BUT says that it must be done with the right heart

Luke18:9-14: Tax collector and the Pharisee. Primary point isn't tithing BUT humility

Heb7:1-10: Written to demonstrate the superiority of Melchizedek's priesthood over that of the Levites