

Cast your mind back to the afternoon of Saturday 16th June; what were you up to? Many of you came along to the fete on The Green. And what a fabulous time we all had. The weather was kind to us this year; not too hot; not too windy - and no rain, or hail, this year! The Green looked amazing, with the church as the backdrop, a colourful array of stalls, fun activities, classic cars, music, and refreshments.

From the feedback I have had, many people had a really good time, coming together as a village community for an enjoyable afternoon with something for everyone. It has been said before, but thank you to everyone who worked hard through the year (the fete committee); those who worked tirelessly before and afterwards; and, on the day itself, to those who manned the stalls - and those who came and had fun, put hand to pocket and contributed to the most successful fete we have had. There are still some expenses to come in, but so far we have made a few pounds over £10,000 - our largest total. What a tremendous result!

Amongst the positive feedback, I have also been asked: "What happens to the money that has been raised?" Here, very briefly and as simply as I can make it, is the answer: the money goes into the general fund of St George's Church account (ie unrestricted on what the money can be used for) and pays for the costs of running the church and towards its upkeep.

Our budget for 2018 is £83,000; in round figures, just over £6,900 per month (down on last year due to some good housekeeping.) As the contribution from our major fund raiser goes into the unrestricted funds, what it actually pays for is not possible to specify; but here are the sort of things we have to pay for in the running and upkeep of the village parish church:

Diocesan Quota (to cover things like the incumbent's stipend (salary) and pension contributions, training costs of current and future priests and lay people, Diocesan running costs and staff costs, safeguarding etc); this works out at £4,039 per month.

- Our day-to-day running costs (ie Rector's and office expenses, and assistance from other clergy); this totals £9,250 pa.
- The costs associated with our worship (organ, piano, vestments, choir etc) are £9,350 pa.
- The running costs of the 'fabric' of the church (insurance, churchyard maintenance, lighting/heating/water and minor repairs) totals £10,950 pa.
- Last year we gave away £5,300 to the work of other charities, locally, nationally and overseas.

People's attitude to what the money should be spent on will differ, of course. Please see your contribution as supporting the cause that you feel is most worthy. As we have been so fortunate with the funds raised at the fete this year, I will be asking the PCC, at their next meeting, if they will consider supporting the work of more local charities.

Thank you again for supporting the fete, and for enjoying yourselves!

Revd David Commander, Rector