**Treasurers Report for the year ended 31st December 2023**

The Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2023 is attached together with a Balance Sheet at that date, both of which are for consideration along with the 2024 Budget by the Two Rivers Mission Community Council.

Overall, there was a Surplus of Receipts over Payments on General Fund for the year of £4287.39, which compares with an original predicted budgeted deficit of £2020. The Council is therefore over £6,300 better off than anticipated at the beginning of 2023 when the budget was put together. There was a small surplus of £10.00 between the Receipts over Payments on the Parish Nursing Fund. The total surplus for the year amounted to £4297.39 leaving the funds available for the Council’s operations at £13446.14, all held in the Councils account with Lloyds Bank plc.

The major source of the Council’s Receipts comes from the £95 per month paid by 9 parishes in the Benefice this equates to £10260 annually. Huntshaw Parish do not pay the £95 per month but make an annual contribution which in 2023 amounted to £400. In addition, paid Clergy have donated tithes which from August 2023 onwards have amounted in excess of £500 each month, hence overall receipts were nearly £2500 more than originally anticipated.

Overall expenditure for the year at £ 11225.05 was considerably lower than the £15050 budgeted and this was due to a number of factors. A major reduction in expenditure over budget came with the anticipated costs of Use of Car amounting to £2747.01 compared with an anticipated £5400. No costs were incurred by the Council in relation to a Retreat whereas an allowance of £1200 had been included. In December Council decided that it was appropriate to recognise the hard unpaid work undertaken by the SSM and Focal Ministers and £100 was paid to each of them as a Christmas Gift although this had not been included when the original budget was put together.

The individual differences between the actual figures and the budgeted figures appear in the final column coloured green on the Receipts and Payments account.

The 2024 Budget shows an overall increase of 10.6% in total payments over the actual figure for 2023. In 2023 the paid clergy team only increased to 3 in the summer so for 2024 we need to anticipate their costs for a full year and in this light Council may consider an increase of just over 10% to be reasonable. If tithe donations continue at the rate experienced over the last 5 months, then Receipts for 2024 will likely reach more than £16500 which would result in a further surplus for the year of over £4000. This is on the assumption that the Parish monthly contributions remain at £95. If this is to be the case in order to justify this consideration needs to be given to any likely increases in expenditure for years after 2024 for which holding a substantial surplus now would avoid large increases in parish contributions in future years.

The Mission Community Council has now received HMRC approval for the submission of Gift Aid claims and donations received where an appropriate Gift Aid declaration has been made will qualify for a refund via the Gift Aid procedures. Claims will be made against all appropriate donations going back to the start of Mission Council. Gift Aid refunds due up to 31st March 2024 amount to £1738.75 and I anticipate that this will be received within the next month or so.