

Treasurer's Report 2014

Redland Park United Reformed Church



Treasurer's Report

Redland Park URC 2014

The purpose of this Treasurer's Report is to help Members understand the church's annual accounts, and the wider finances of Redland Park URC, in a more accessible manner.

The formal Annual Report and Accounts must be written according to statutory and professional standards. **At Church Meeting, you will be asked to approve the formal Annual Report and Accounts which is a separate document.**

If you have any questions, issues or concerns, please feel free to raise them at Church Meeting or e mail me: john_neugebauer@msn.com

Overall

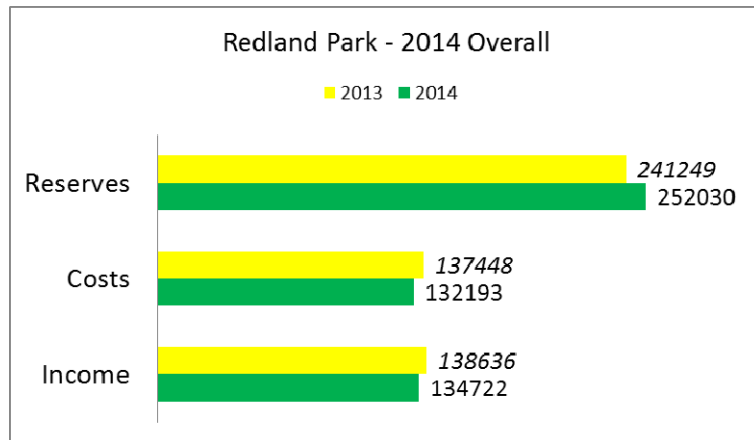
Our **income** was down by nearly £4,000 to £134,722 (2013 £138,636).

Our **costs** were also down by £5,255 to £132,193 (2013 £137,448).

We have been able to 'save' £2,529 (2013 £1,188)

In 2014, it cost £2,542 (2013 £2,666) a week to run Redland Park URC.

Our **reserves** rose to £252,030 (£241,249 in 2013).



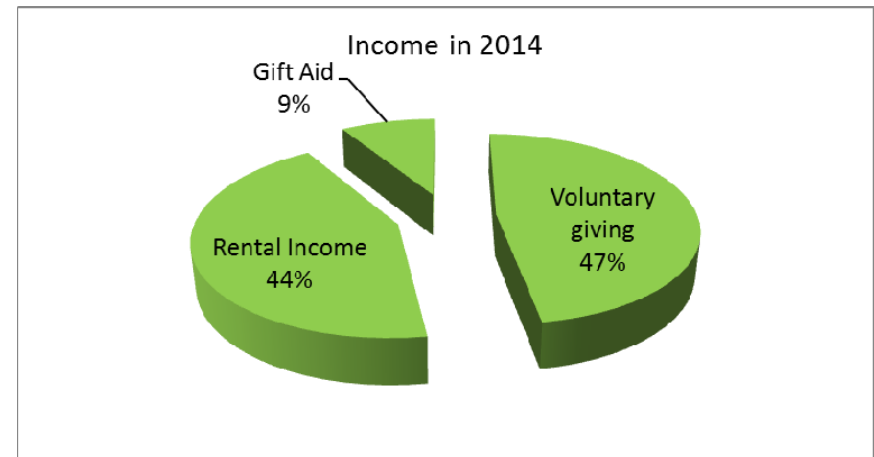
Our Income

In 2014, **voluntary giving** was down by £3,610 to £67,250 (2013 £70,860).

Rental Income of £61,737 made up about 44% of our income

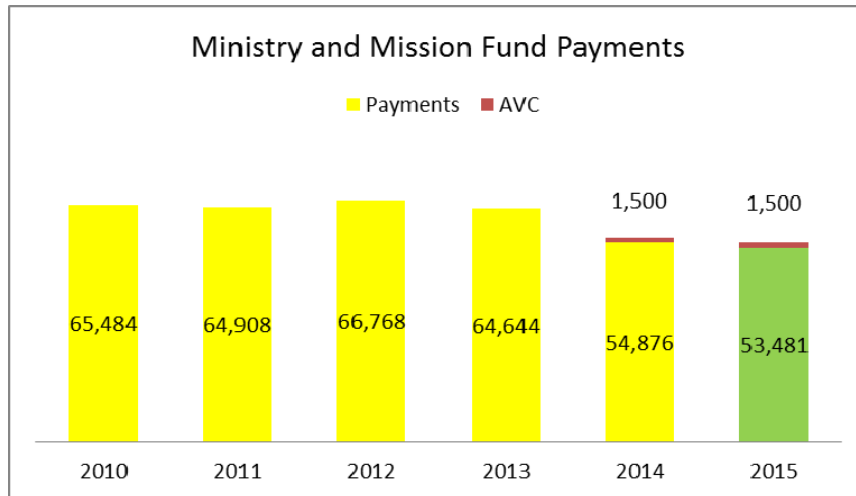
Gift Aid was £12,617 (2013 £9,405) and was 9.3% of our income

The Bristol Korean Church is now established and thriving under the leadership of Reverend Bohyun Kim. It is a separately funded Special Category Ministry. Supporting the continued growth of the Bristol Korean Church in the use of rooms at Redland Park is part of our Mission. However, the Bristol Korean Church increased their monthly donation to £200 per month for the costs of Redland Park URC in 2014.



Our costs

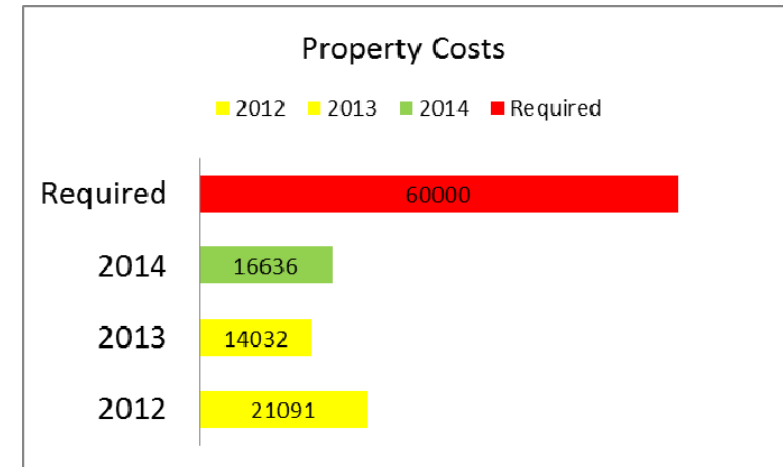
In 2014, we spent £137,448 (2013 £147,316).



Ministry and Mission Fund costs (a total of £56,376 in 2014) have continued to decline, despite the pressures on the Church's Finances. This Fund is central to our wider mission and responsibility as a Church within the United Reformed Church. It pays for Ministers' training, stipend, housing, and pension, but also supports the wider United Reformed Church.

Redland Park made an additional voluntary contribution of £1,500 in 2014, and will do so again in 2015. In October 2015, Church members will again be asked whether our own finances will enable us to make an additional voluntary contribution (AVC) for 2016.

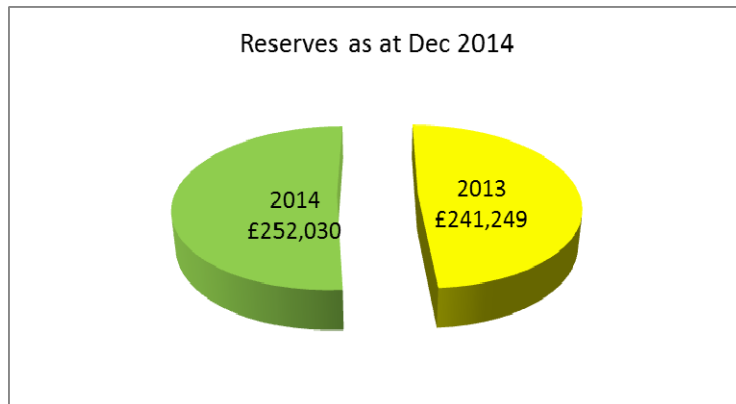
Gas, electricity and water costs rose again to £17,467 (2013 £17,013) which was an increase of 2.6% on 2013. These costs are the equivalent of £335 per week (2013 £327).



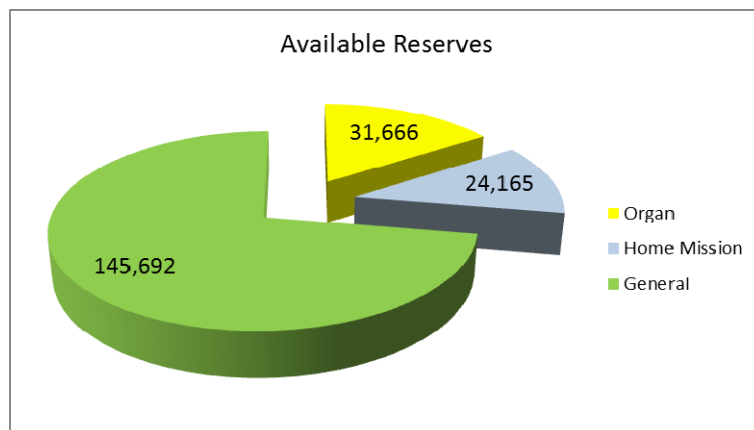
Much of our spending is on **property maintenance** £16,636 (2013 £14,032). We do not 'own' the Church buildings but we are responsible for their upkeep for future generations. However, the fabric of the church is ageing, and repairs are costly (£16,636 in 2014, £14,032 in 2013, and £21,091 in 2012). Our current estimate is that about £60,000 is required to spend on Church Maintenance. Our priority will be to spread this over several years wherever possible. This amount may change as a result of the Five Year Property Review, which is being undertaken in 2015.

Our Reserves

After some difficult years, **our reserves** at the end of 2014 were £252,030 (2013 £241,249). By not overspending from year to year, and with steady returns on our investments, our reserves are now at a prudent level.



Our reserves include funds for the Organ (£31,666) and Home Mission Fund (£24,165). Therefore, £145,692 of the reserves are available for the running of the church.



The Church's policy on reserves is that they should be available for major unexpected future spending. For example, we are aware of similar churches that are facing very significant roofing, heating, re-wiring, and similar costs which are very difficult for contemporary church memberships to fund. Whilst reserves may be used for maintenance and property work, we try to spread the costs and use current year giving in order to build reserves for the future. No reserves were used in 2014.

Our reserves are held in the CCLA Investment Management Ltd **COIF Charities Deposit Fund**, which aim to achieve an acceptable level of return, balanced with ethical investment policies.

Our Prospects

Now that we have a Church Vision and Mission, it will become easier over the years to consider how our spending and activities compare with our Mission as a Church. It continues to be very important for Church Members to maintain their giving to fund our Mission and retain a strong church for the future.

Our Mission and Vision is:

Trusting in God, with Jesus at the centre of our lives, and taking our lead from the Holy Spirit, the congregation and Members of Redland Park URC seek to serve our local community and the wider world by being:

- welcoming;
- multi-cultural;
- caring;
- and mission-focused disciples of Jesus.

We will continue to:

welcome all, being inclusive of age, disability, ethnicity or sexual orientation;
harness our skills to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ;
support, nourish and encourage each other to grow in the Spirit;
and tend God's creation
so that

Here may Thy glory honoured be,
Here let us know Thy grace;
Here may our children's children see
The beauty of Thy face.

(Basil Sims, Redland Park Minister, 1948-1960)

In addition to funding our vision and mission aims, we have a five year audit of our property in 2015. This will probably raise additional Property and Maintenance cost. Our current estimate is that we need to spend £60,000+ on property maintenance. We will continue to consider the best use of Church premises and come to Church Meeting if major changes are considered.

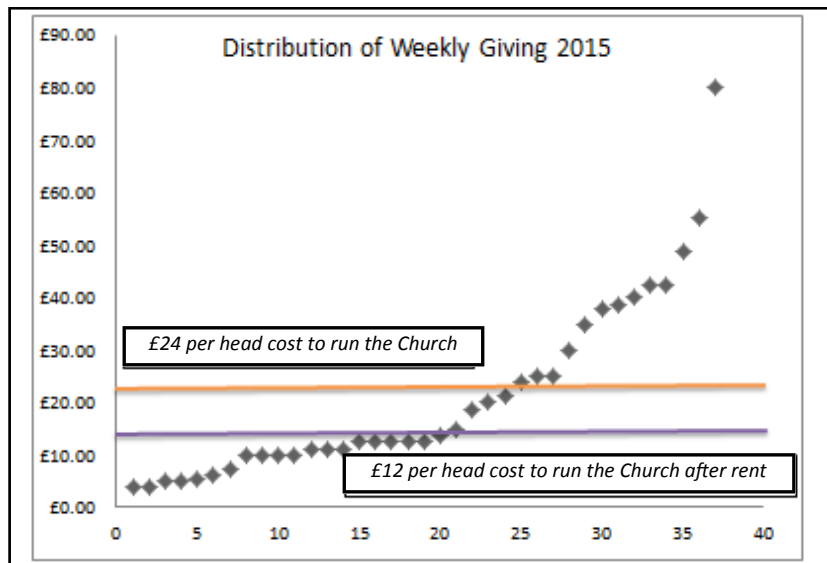
As an act of commitment to the Vision and Mission agreed by Church Members, we ask Members to review their own Personal Support for the Church on an annual basis.

Our Personal Support for the Church

The theological understanding of the concept of Stewardship is that all that we have first comes from God. The question then arises as to how our actions, decisions and daily living form an appropriate response to God's gifts.

Church members ask 'what is an appropriate amount to give?' Of course, this depends on ability to give, but the following notes will help to think about your own contribution to the mission of Redland Park URC:

- *Have you had an annual uplift in your income this year? If so, please share the benefit with the Church. Increase your giving to the Church by a similar percentage amount.*
- *Similarly, some traditions are to make a donation to the church as thanks for key events or anniversaries in their lives.*
- *URC guidance is that 5% of our net disposable income should be given to the Church, and 5% to wider charitable causes.*
- *Even after we receive our rental income, it costs £12 per attendee each week to run the Church. Whether or not we attend church, the fixed costs are still here.*
- *If you are a taxpayer, please ensure that we have a Gift Aid Form signed for you.*
- *If it is difficult to give from income, have you considered a legacy towards the Church in your will?*



www.redlandparkurc.org

Thank you

Thank you for the support of Church Members and Donors to the life and Mission of Redland Park URC.

In particular, thanks to:

- Viv Hayden, David Hayden, and Andrew Sims for their unstinting support in managing the Church’s bookkeeping and Gift Aid
- The Finance and Property Committee for their support, especially to Terry King for his expertise in the Property Maintenance of the Church
- Sally King and Terry King for managing Church Lettings and Rents. This raised £61,737 – 44% of our annual income.

Help us to keep Redland Park URC as a “church for our children’s children”

John Neugebauer, Treasurer

