**NOTES ON 2018 DRAFT GENERAL FUND BUDGET**

1. The reduction of £4,000 in planned giving is because there is no longer any support to the General Fund from the generous anonymous donations we have received over the last 4 years. We have gradually reduced our dependence on these over the last couple of years as we have brought the General Fund budget into balance.

2. Fortunately this reduction is offset by the increase in rental income for the Parish Centre hall on the assumption that Busy Bees pre-school will operate at their planned 30 hours a week in 2018.

3. Increases in various expenditure headings to reflect current trends or expected price increases are offset by a reduction of £4,400 in our Parish Share (Common Mission Fund) payments. Over the last 3 years we have been paying above out target rate during the transition by the Diocese to a new formula for calculating the Share due from each parish.

4. The overall result is a broadly balanced budget with a small planned surplus of £1,244.

5. To maintain this situation in future years there will need to be a continued focus on encouraging planned giving by existing and new parishioners as well as maximising income from fund-raising events to offset inevitable inflationary pressures.

November 2017