

PIE CHART SUNDAY 2017

Today is a celebration and an accounting of God's financial provision to us over the last year.

Our leadership structure has no "church meeting".

But there is a Biblical Principle – doing things right and being seen to do things right.

Some practical things first:

- In previous years, we've sent out giving reports to everyone who gives. However, the administrative time it takes to do this for everyone is considerable and so this year we're trialling doing it on a 'request basis'. If you need a giving report for your tax return or just to have a paper copy please just email giving@leedsvineyard.org (or call Adrian in the office);
- Please could you (taxpayer or not) go to www.leedsvineyard.org/giftaid and make a renewed declaration. This will ensure that we have an up-to-date electronic database which means that we can make swift and efficient gift aid claims. Please note that the responsibility is on you, as the one giving the gift, to ensure that you're paying sufficient tax. If you're not sure whether or not you pay tax please do get in touch.
- Annual accounts are available from the Charity Commission website or ask Anne Button (Executive Assistant Pastor) or Alex Holt (chair of trustees) if you need to know more.
- Standing orders, gift aid declarations and information booklets are available on Sundays or on the website (search for "Give").

2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-24

16 But thank God! He has given Titus the same enthusiasm for you that I have. 17 Titus welcomed our request that he visit you again. In fact, he himself was very eager to go and see you. 18 We are also sending another brother with Titus. All the churches praise him as a preacher of the Good News. 19 He was appointed by the churches to accompany us as we take the offering to Jerusalem—a service that glorifies the Lord and shows our eagerness to help.

20 We are traveling together to guard against any criticism for the way we are handling this generous gift. 21 We are careful to be honourable before the Lord, but we also want everyone else to see that we are honourable. 22 We are also sending with them another of our brothers who has proven himself many times and has shown on many occasions how eager he is. He is now even more enthusiastic because of his great confidence in you. 23 If anyone asks about Titus, say that he is my partner who works with me to help you. And the brothers with him have been sent by the churches, and they bring honour to Christ. 24 So show them your love, and prove to all the churches that our boasting about you is justified.

A Biblical Principle

Doing things right and being seen to do things right.

St Paul – like a G4S security van, carrying a charitable offering from churches in Macedonia, going to collect the offering from the church in Corinth and then take it to Jerusalem to provide relief and aid for the people there who were experiencing a famine. (Nothing changes).

Previous experience: people critical and untrusting re money.

Same today – one of the two issues likely to bring down a church leader or damage a church – money.

Paul at pains to handle the money well (good governance) – and to be seen to do so:

1. Separation.

He probably didn't carry the money himself - from what happened later it is clear he travelled to Jerusalem via a different route from the men carrying the money
David & Alison each have a church card with a £250 limit for minor expenses. We don't handle the money.

2. Good people.

He appointed other people of good reputation and competence to handle the money

Verse 18 – sending Titus and another brother

Verse 22 – another brother

Verse 23 – status/credibility of the security offices (Titus is Paul's partner, the brothers are representatives of the sending churches). They seem to be known and respected by everyone

LV – we have selected and appointed trustees, plus Anne as executive assistant pastor and Adrian Howe as business manager. All with expertise and of good repute!

3. Good administration and organisation

Paul made elaborate and careful arrangements to collect and transport the funds safely and transparently

Churches cost money and they are complicated organisations when they grow and get established, so we invest in good governance (reporting to Companies House and Charity Commission)

Biblical principle – doing things right and being seen to do things right, that's why we report to the church each year.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This information is about Leeds Vineyard which operates under the umbrella charity called The Wharfedale Vineyard (which also serves Harrogate and Sheffield Vineyards).

How does it work?

It works in 3 stages:

1. We think and pray about what God is calling us to do. It's described in our priorities: worship, study the bible, fellowship/safe place/community, equip & train, send, reach out, pray – and in our vision statement:

We believe God has called us to establish a growing, regional, biblically based community of faith in Leeds. We will worship God, pray, communicate His love and mercy to all people and commit to living out our faith in Jesus in a creative and contemporary way, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

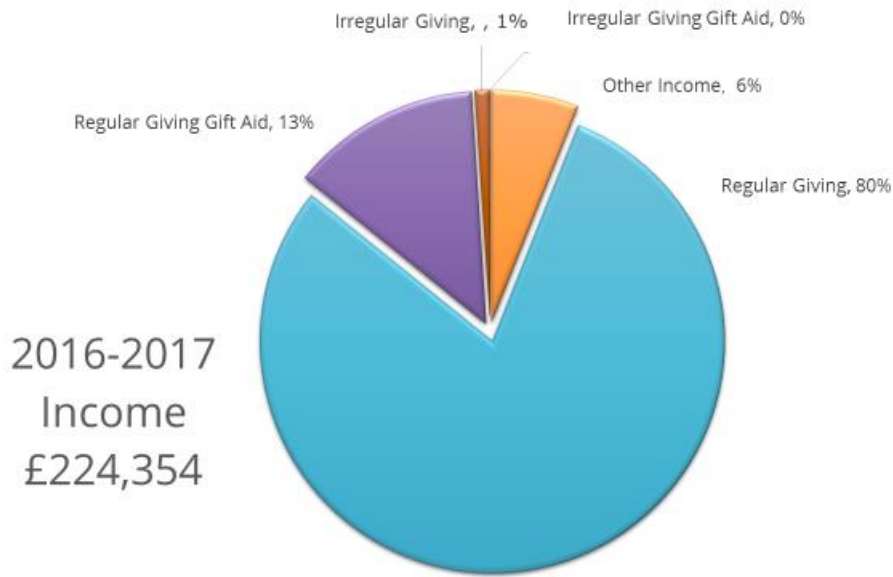
We believe that there is good news for this generation in the Kingdom of God and we long to share that news, particularly in Leeds and the North.

We aim to make, train and equip followers of Jesus to be effective in the extending of God's Kingdom, to develop leaders, to plant new churches, to contribute to the blessing of the whole church and to minister with the poor in practical ways.

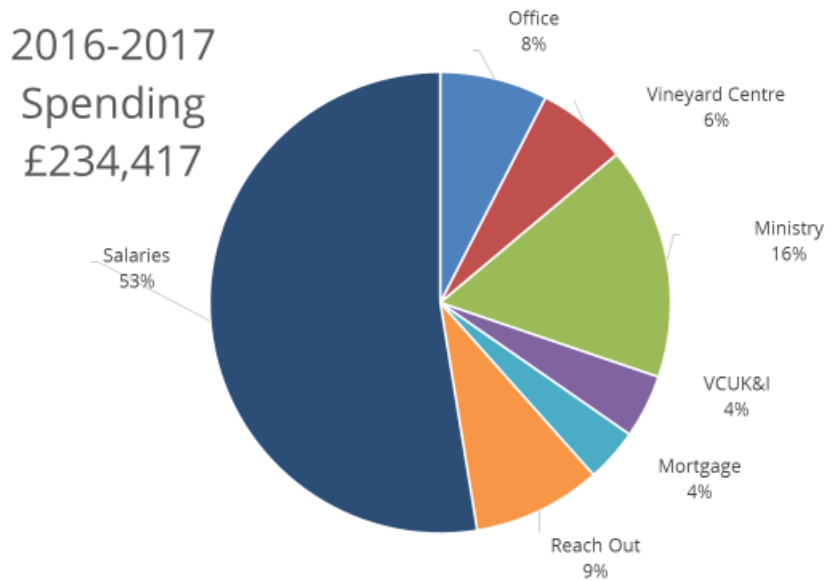
2. We invite people who consider Leeds Vineyard their church home to give regularly and generously. Thank you.
3. We spend that money on the priorities God has given us.

NUMBERS

Last year's income = £224,354



Last year's spending = £234,417



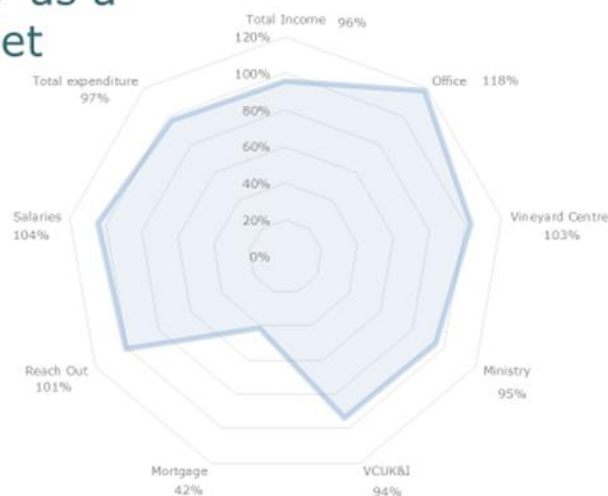
Last year we reported that we had recovered from a difficult few years to record a small surplus. This year we have spent £7,000 less than we budgeted for (that's good news) but we also received £10,000 less income than we anticipated (not such good news). This was mainly because a generous "matched-funding" scheme from which the church had benefited for many years was withdrawn without notice last Autumn. We have sufficient reserves to cover this and we can also report that since the turn of the year there has been a steady stream of people starting to give and others who have increased their giving.

We thank the Lord for this continuing sign of God's blessing on the people of Leeds Vineyard.

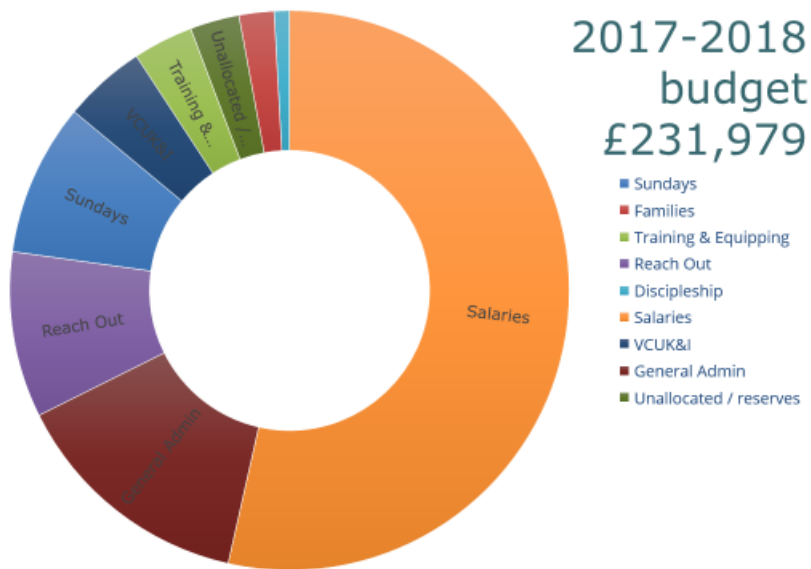
Radar graph - Sale of Vineyard Centre and move to North Lane distorts the figures

- Increased office costs
- Reduced mortgage
- In total the spending came in lower than we budgeted (that's good)

2016-2017 as a
% of budget



Next year's budget



Mainly categorised around our priorities (worship, the bible, fellowship, ministry, sending & equipping). Please hold this lightly because the year is likely to be distorted by STEPS and the purchase of the new building.

Other numbers we track to help us plan

Sunday attendance

- Just Sunday mornings – adults, youth, children
- Cycle repeats each year – useful for planning
- Summer dip gradually disappearing
- The overall trend - steady average increase since April 2014

Conclusion

2 Corinthians 8:20

*20 We are traveling together to guard against any criticism for the way we are handling this **generous gift**.*

We are acutely aware of our responsibility. The money you give individually becomes part of the offering of the whole church and is a very generous gift which we have a duty of care to handle responsibly.

We aren't hoarding it, we're spending it on what the Lord has given us all to do and which we articulate in our priorities and vision statement.

Every week we hear stories of how Jesus has redeemed and rescued people, every week many people are taught and prayed for, every week in small groups all around us people are building community, doing life together, creating safe places to worship and learn about Jesus, every week we are out in the city, at work, amongst our neighbours, on the streets, sharing some of Jesus love, every week we minister to the poor in practical ways.

We all participate in the life of the church – worshipping together, ministering to the poor, praying for the sick, learning how to live as disciples of Jesus, determined to reach a broken world with the life transforming message of Jesus' love.

Shall we do this for another year?

David Flowers
21 May 2017