

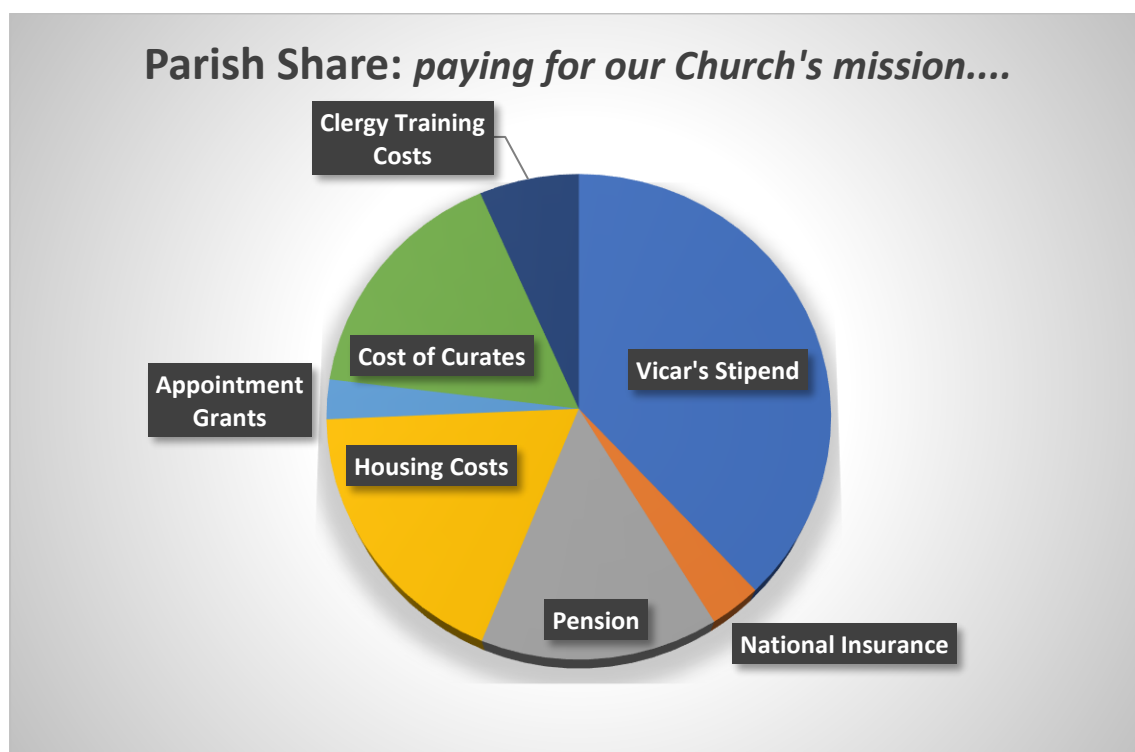
## *Mission for Growth*

A generation ago, the Church of England was responding to falling attendances by reducing clergy costs – amalgamating parishes, training fewer curates and appointing part-time priests. In our case, Giles Godber was appointed as part-time Vicar of the joint Benefice of Geddington and Weekley.

Nationally, however, research showed that this approach was resulting in an ageing body of clergy and ageing congregations, with few young people coming into the church. The research concluded that the only way out of this downward spiral was to invest in growth.

Bishop Donald responded with a bold initiative: *Mission for Growth* – using the Diocese’s reserves to increase clergy numbers and clergy training in order to grow congregations and who would in turn increase income to meet the extra costs.

So, when Giles Godber retired in 2013, the parish agreed to revert to having a full-time priest, on the basis that we would grow our income to meet the full cost of doing so. Bishop Donald agreed to help us by staggering the necessary increases in our Parish Share over 3 years, and has since extended this subsidy by another year. An anonymous person also agreed to donate £15,000 over 3 years to ease the transition.

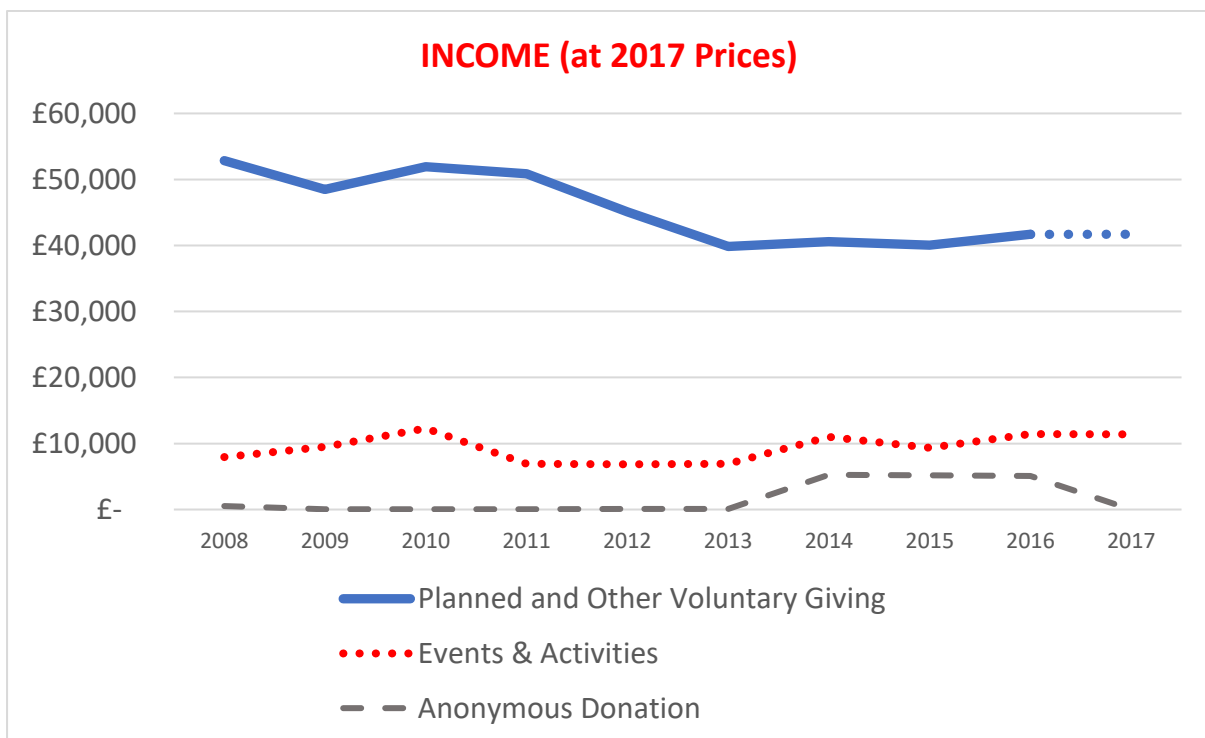
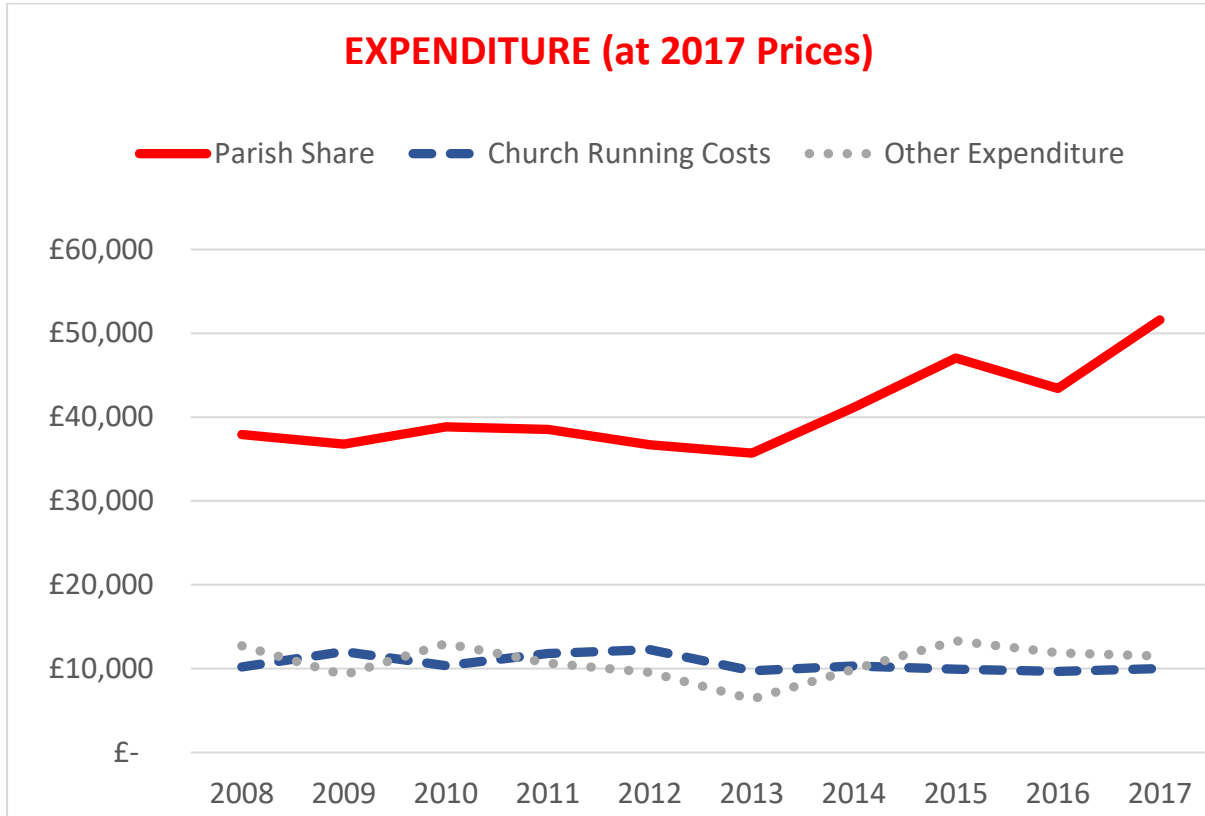


### **How our Parish Share is used to help our church grow.**

At £51,600 for this year, our Parish Share is one third higher in real terms now than 6 years ago – but that’s not surprising - because we now have a full-time vicar, and it’s what the parish agreed to in 2013.

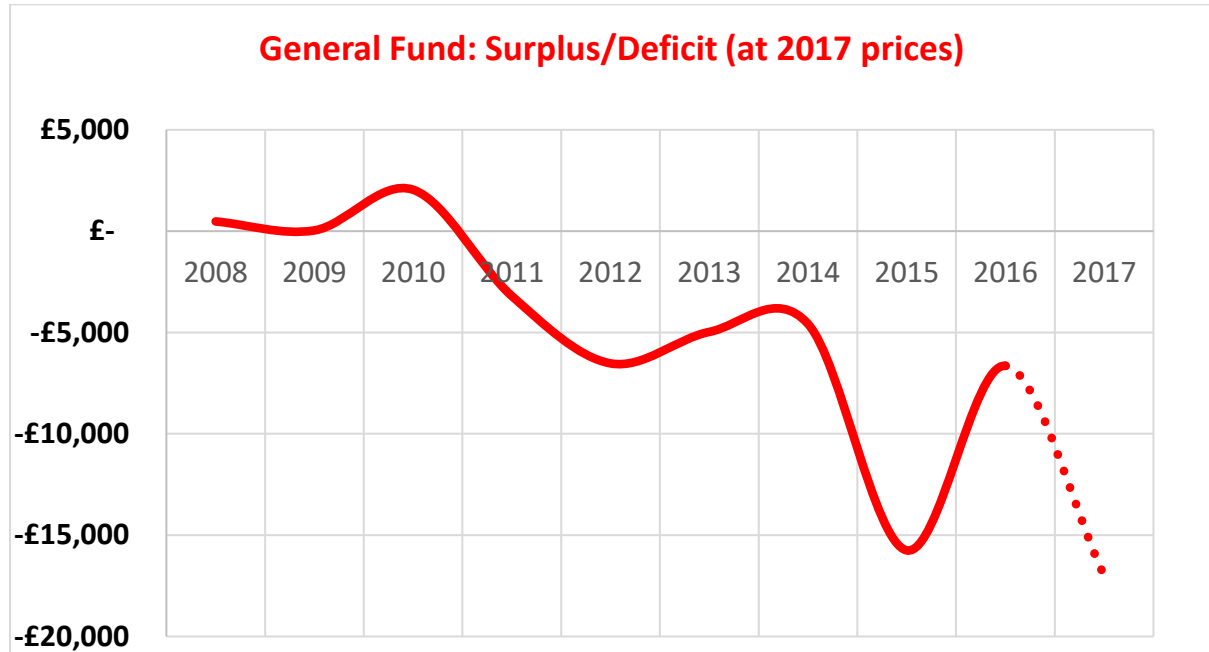
# The financial crisis we face today (1)

*Income and expenditure at a glance.....*

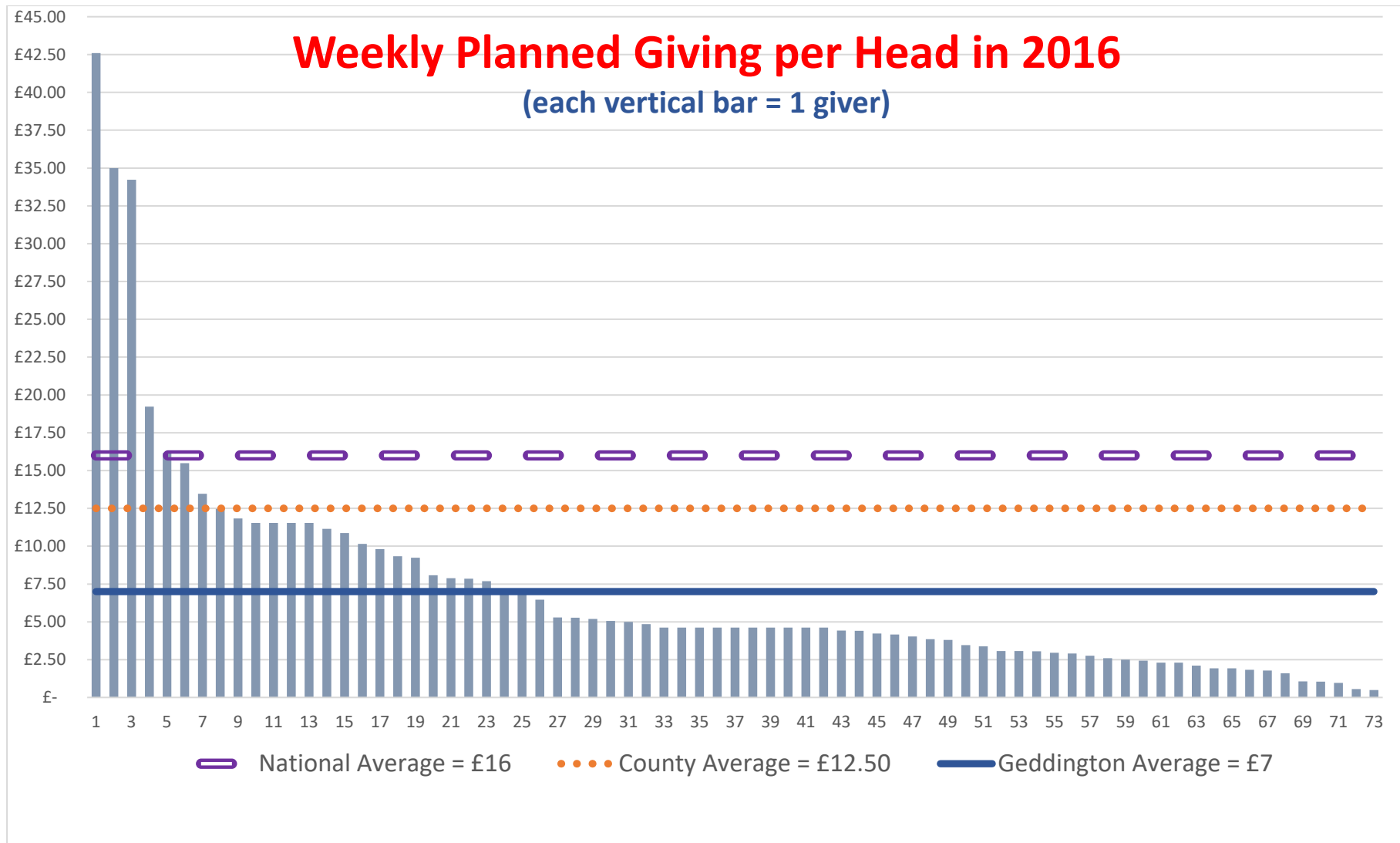


## The financial crisis we face today (2)

It may surprise many of us to know that our church has been running at a deficit since 2011.



- Between 2011 and 2014, our deficit averaged £4,800 each year in real terms. This was covered by drawing on balances built up in earlier years.
- In 2015, this deficit increased to over £15,000, mostly due to the increasing Parish Share. This was covered by drawing on the accumulated profits of the Flower and Christmas Tree Festivals.
- In 2016, we showed a deficit of 'only' £6,600. However, this disguises the fact that for the first time in memory, we failed to pay our full Parish Share, and we used up the last of the past profits from the Flower/Christmas Tree Festivals. So, the 'true' deficit was in fact just over £12,000.
- For 2017, if nothing changes, we are facing another deficit of £12,000 - AND we also have to find the £5,000 that our anonymous donor is no longer making. So, we face a deficit of £17,000 this year.
- A sobering thought - we only have £21,000 left in our Reserves



To close the gap between income & expenditure, ***we need to give an average of an extra £5 a week each*** – matching the County average.

***If you have signed a Gift Aid declaration, this can be achieved with an extra £4 a week.***