

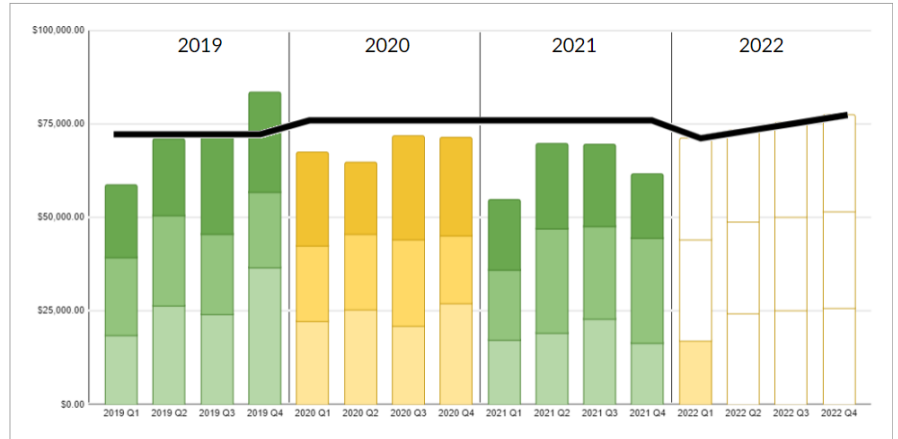


Church Finance Update - 1st May 2022

In the previous finance update after our AGM we provided an update focussed on gradual growth over the year as people returned to church or joined.

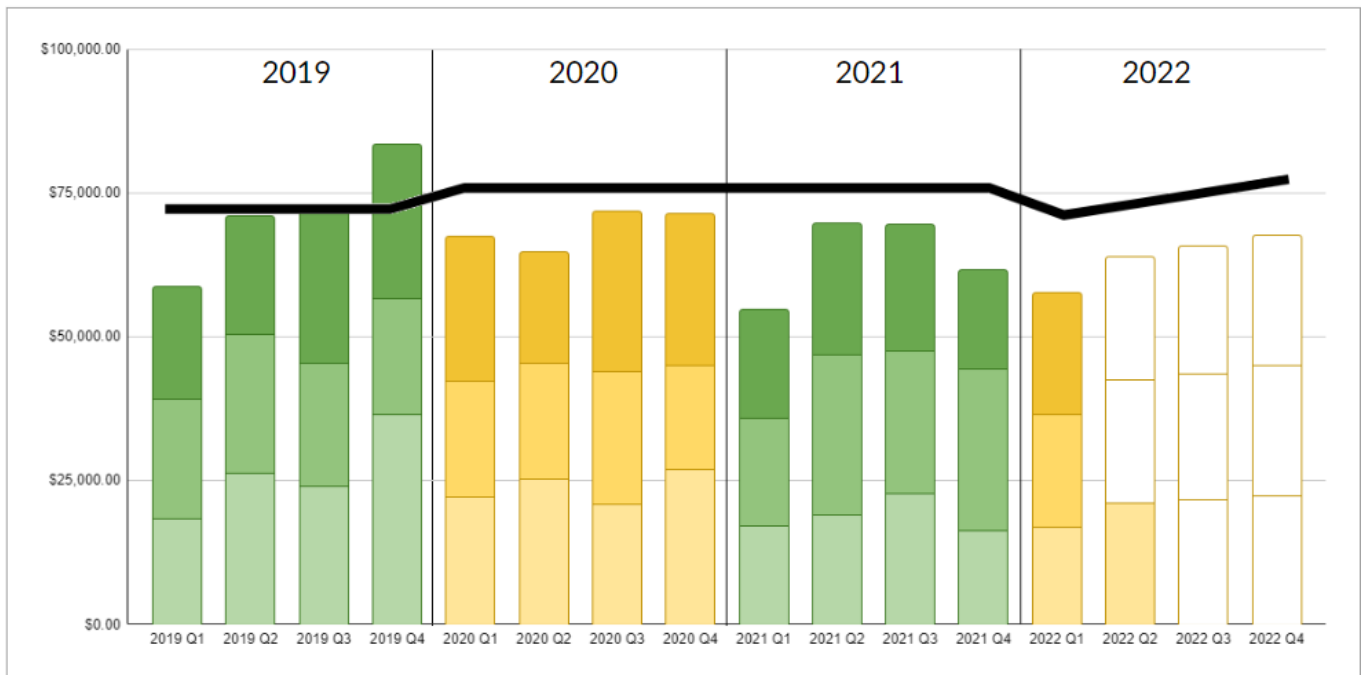
Whilst we knew at that point that January had been a particularly low month for offertory we were optimistic about the path forward, and presented a plan that was necessary, that we were well positioned to achieve, and that was realistic.

Quarterly Offertory vs Budget at AGM



4 months into the year, offertory has been significantly below budget each month.

Quarterly Offertory vs Budget Today



This has been a surprise for the Parish Council. Despite most things at church being back to normal, and a good number of people attending services each week, offertory has not improved.

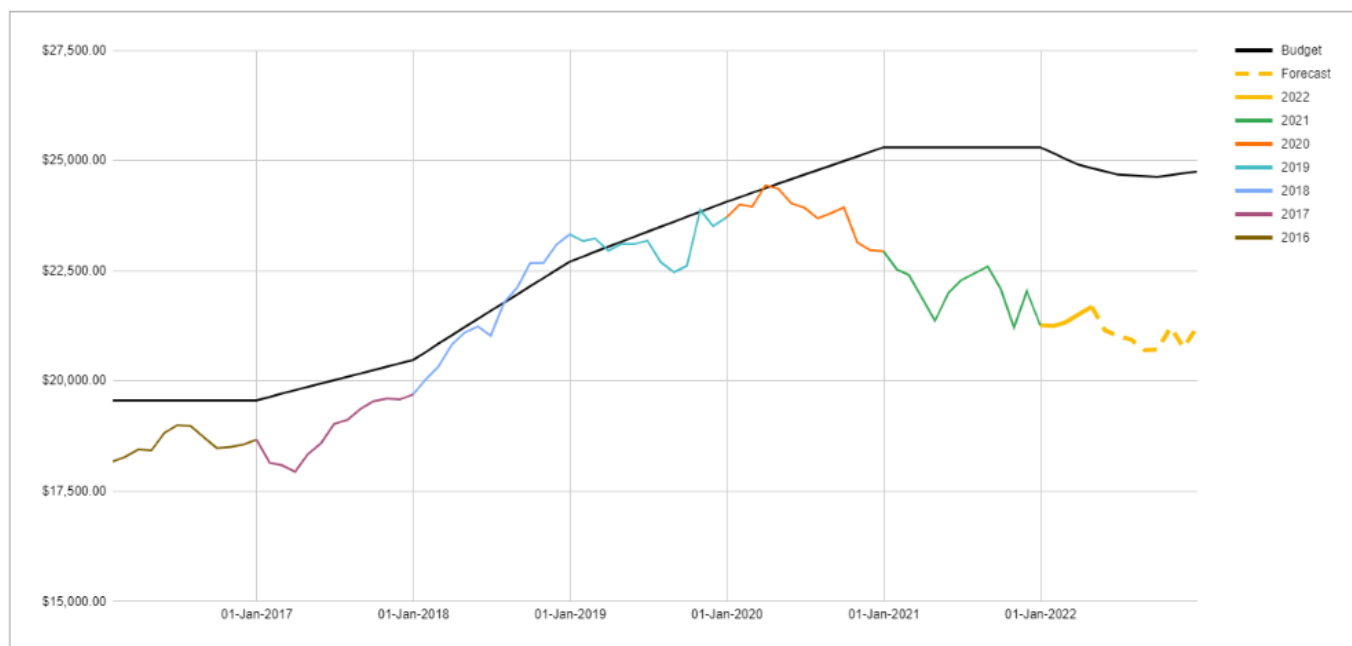
Offertory for the last 3 months has been in the lowest half of all months for the last 5 years, leaving us at present 18%, or \$16.5k, behind budget for the year-to-date.

The current forecast suggests we will end the year \$42k behind budget. This level of deficit is not sustainable

Parish Council also reviewed data relating to offertory, and found somewhat surprisingly that the majority of offertory, including the majority of direct-deposit offertory, is irregular. This irregularity makes it more challenging for the Parish Council to plan effectively, as we cannot accurately predict offertory levels for the remainder of the year.

The trend graph below demonstrates clearly how offertory has dropped since the start of the COVID-19 lockdowns, and has continued to fall despite the easing of restrictions and the return to in person church services.

Offertory History Since 2016 (12 month rolling average)



Parish Council has already made a number of changes to our finances, including removing a paid administration role from our staffing and are now considering what further changes will be required if things do not improve.

Any change to address this deficit will be large, uncomfortable, and have a direct impact on ministry.

The Parish Council is asking you to do 3 things:

1) Please **pray** about this. Pray for God's provision and for the generosity of His people. Pray for your own heart and generosity also. Pray God will provide, and that He will use you, personally, as part of the answer.

Perhaps you are someone on a low fixed income, and for whom an extra \$2 per week is both generous and sacrificial. That extra \$100 per year absolutely makes a difference.

Perhaps you are more stable and can afford an extra \$10 or \$20 per week. If this was the average across all the adults in our congregation, we'd be close to covering our deficit and reaching sustainability.

Or perhaps you are someone who God has blessed generously with more, and can afford an extra \$100-200 per month, or perhaps even more, providing more out of your abundance to help reduce the burden on others.

2) If you can, please **be regular**. We are aware this won't be possible for everyone. For some people, with irregular income for example, being regular won't be feasible.

But if you can, please do. Whether this is setting up a regular direct deposit on a particular frequency, or putting a note in your calendar, or whatever will work best for you, a consistent, regular offertory allows us to plan well.

If you have already set up a regular offertory, please take the opportunity to check that it's working, and consider putting in your calendar or diary a reminder to review it regularly also so that it doesn't become "set and forget".

3) Please don't put off acting on this, but **do it today**. If a change in your personal giving is something you are going to do, please don't put it off until tomorrow, and then forget about it until the next reminder.

Parish Council is actively discussing what to do next, and under what circumstances, so prompt action is needed.

HOW TO GIVE IN PERSON

We are working through restarting the use of the offertory plate within our services.

In the meantime there is an offertory box located at the back of the church for any in-person giving.

HOW TO GIVE ELECTRONICALLY

You can give via your bank's Internet, Telephone or Mobile banking services, using the following details:

Account Name: **Anglican Parish of Ingleburn**
BSB: **032-372** Account No: **379345**