

Treasurer's Report, Financial Year 2019

Overall, this has been a solid year financially, with a useful excess of income against expenditure and an increase in the underlying core balance. Indeed, at one point the bank balance topped £40,000 for the first time. The main factors which have generated this positive picture are the sustaining of our income from annual subscriptions, the lower costs when holding the Annual Meeting outside London, and the continued “good housekeeping” exercised by Officers and Executive Committee members, particularly in relation to the costs of travel and meetings.

Income from annual subscriptions has in fact increased somewhat, probably helped by a timely reminder to unpaid SACREs last Autumn and a more determined updating of SACRE and Local Authority contacts. The receipts show that 123 SACREs had paid their 2019-2020 Annual Subscription by the end of the Financial Year, out of a potential number of 153.

Within the expenditure figures, there is an entry for two repeat cheques. One of these relates to a substantial sum of £450 intended for an educational trust as an honorarium for a speaker at the 2018 Annual Meeting. This cheque had somehow failed to arrive, and a replacement cheque had to be issued. In relation to another entry, NASACRE pays annual subscriptions to the Religious Education Council and the Interfaith Network (UK), but the dates of payment do not always fall regularly within the financial year, hence the apparent disparity year against year.

In view of the sound bank balance, the Executive Committee has agreed in principle to set aside some funds towards a pilot scheme for SACRE development in the light of the RE Commission's Report “Religion and World Views - the way forward”. This project has been delayed and has not yet got under way. However, it remains in prospect, and the Committee is considering further ways in which it might deploy NASACRE's assets at a watershed moment in the RE world.

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Treasurer, NASACRE