



Diocese of St. Albans Pastoral Support Grants - Guidelines

These guidelines are written to assist three groups of people: (i) those who are seeking a grant; (ii) the deanery committees who will be recommending grant applications; and (iii) the Diocesan Parish Shares Committee who will finally approve a grant.

Each year the diocesan budget has an amount allocated to meet parish requests. As the fund is used to help some churches so the rest of the diocesan churches are accepting a small increase in their share. The fund is limited and, therefore, these notes describe the criteria to be borne in mind when going through the application process.

1. **Purpose**

- ◆ To provide encouragement and motivation to those parishes experiencing or foreseeing hardship in meeting their share by helping them to avoid falling into arrears.
- ◆ To fulfil scripture and our Anglican tradition to *bear one another's burdens* (Gal 6:2)

2. **Objectives**

Within the funds available, the objectives in awarding these grants are to:

- ◆ relieve hardship;
- ◆ support specific mission activity or mission placement of churches;
- ◆ provide help in adverse extra-ordinary situations.

3. **Evaluation**

With the fund oversubscribed and the need to trim back and prioritise requests, the Diocesan Parish Shares Committee will expect that, at a minimum, deanery committees will have addressed the following questions and statistics:

- ◆ how much is requested;
- ◆ why it is being requested (from other churches rather than their own congregation);
- ◆ would the request be met more suitably from grant bodies;
- ◆ can others in the deanery help and if not, why not;
- ◆ a copy of the previous year's accounts;
- ◆ what is the financial year-to-date position and year-end outlook;
- ◆ what financial commitments does the church have;
- ◆ what monies are received from rental or other income;
- ◆ how much is in non-restricted funds;
- ◆ what are those funds designated for if anything;
- ◆ is this a one-off request or a trend;
- ◆ has the church conducted or is the church planning a stewardship programme;
- ◆ where does the church rank vs. Diocesan averages in the figures for Income per CMF (or ER) and Parish Share per CMF (or ER);
- ◆ etc..

4. **Recommendations**

Each deanery making recommendations should indicate clearly that the objectives and evaluation criteria have been studied. Where appropriate, answers to these criteria should be submitted along with the deanery's recommendations and priorities.