



Martin Bishop

Financial Secretary

Tel: 01727 818133

Fax: 01727 844469

e-mail: [mbishop@stalbans.anglican.org](mailto:mbishop@stalbans.anglican.org)

January 2012

Dear Treasurer,

**Encl (Paper version): 1 - Parish Share Statement of account to 31<sup>st</sup> December; 2 – Direct Debit Form; 3 – Standing Order Form**

Items for potential or immediate action, are indicated by side lines

### **Parish Share Account as at 31 December 2011**

*This statement is either enclosed with your paper copy of this letter or will arrive under separate cover by email. Statements are not sent where the balance on the account is currently zero.*

This takes into account all remittances received up to the 31<sup>st</sup> December. As in previous years, payments may be made for a limited period to settle any outstanding amounts for the prior year, and these will be taken into account *before* any annual shortfall is determined. The deadline for this limited period is **Tuesday 31st January 2012**.

### **Parish Share 2012 - Monthly Payment of Parish Share**

Regular payment to us of parish share by either Standing Order or Direct Debit helps us in turn to meet our monthly commitments, in particular the monthly clergy stipend and pension payments.

For PCCs who have previously been paying the Parish Share by Direct Debit, you are about to receive a separate letter from me giving details of the planned collections for the coming year. If you would like to *start* paying parish share by Direct Debit, then please use the enclosed Direct Debit Mandate (<http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/Resources/Help-for-Parish-Officers/PCC-Treasurers/Finance-Forms>) This should be returned to the Diocesan Office in the first instance. We will then write to you to let you know when the collections will start and confirm the amounts concerned.

If, however, you would like to pay some of the Parish Share in regular monthly amounts by Standing Order instruction to your PCC's bank, then please use the enclosed Banker's Order form (<http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/Resources/Help-for-Parish-Officers/PCC-Treasurers/Finance-Forms>)

It would help us, when choosing the transaction date for your Standing Order, if you could avoid a period of 2-3 days at either end of the month. In some cases it can take up to 3 working days after the debit date on your statement for the funds to reach the DBF account. This may lead, at the year-end especially, to misunderstandings as to which period a particular standing order payment was intended for.

### **Parochial Fees**

Parochial fees for 2012 **will be held at the 2011 rates**. You can find a note of these on the Church Commissioners website at:

<http://www.churchofengland.org/weddings-baptisms-funerals/fees.aspx>

If you do not have internet access, and require a paper copy, please contact the Diocesan Office.

### **National Procurement Group – Parish Buying service**

You may like to know that the Parish Buying service will launch officially on 30th January 2012, but the energy service is now fully operational. Any parishes needing advice or quotes can get them immediately by registering at [www.parishbuying.org.uk](http://www.parishbuying.org.uk) or ringing 0800 368 0887.

For further information please contact **Russell Stables** ([russell.stables@churchofengland.org](mailto:russell.stables@churchofengland.org)) or Rob Kissick ([robert.kissick@churchofengland.org](mailto:robert.kissick@churchofengland.org)) at the **National Procurement Office**

### **Parish Trusts**

Our next priority is to produce the annual statements of Custodian Trusts, which we expect to be able to distribute to you by the end of January.

Whilst I cannot give specific investment advice, about optimising the return on your investments, you might like to consult Richard Coulson at CCLA. CCLA manage the various CBF pooled Investment Funds. Their advice is not independent, as they can only advise on which of their “products” would be suitable for your needs. However it might be a good place to start. Richard would need to know what your short/medium/long term goals are in terms of income stream and capital growth, in order to best advise which of the pooled funds (or combination of funds) might be appropriate to your PCC's needs.

Richard's contact details are:

CCLA Investment Management Ltd, Customer Services, 80 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DZ  
Phone: 0844 561 5150 email: [richard.coulson@ccla.co.uk](mailto:richard.coulson@ccla.co.uk)

Alternatively or additionally, you could seek independent advice. I am not able to make any specific recommendations although the following website might help you in your search:

<http://www.christianfinancialadvisers.org.uk/find-christian-financial-adviser>

### **Charity Commission investment guidance for trustees - For information.**

The Charity Commission has published updated guidance on [Charities and Investment Matters](#).

The guidance offers a clear framework for decision-making but emphasises that it is up to trustees to decide on the most appropriate overall investment strategy for their charities.

The guidance explains the three investment approaches that charities can use:

- Financial investment, which aims to achieve the best financial return within the level of risk considered acceptable.
- Programme-related investment, aimed at helping the charity further its objects directly, giving rise to a public benefit, in a way that might also yield a financial return.
- Mixed motive investment, where charities make investments that cannot be wholly justified either as financial or programme-related investments, but which the trustees still consider likely to be in the best interests of the charity.

The updated guidance confirms that trustees can invest ethically and sustainably, can invest for a financial return or can invest to achieve charitable aims – or for a mix of all or any of these. However, where trustees make a mixed motive investment they need to be satisfied that the investment can be justified by the combination of the anticipated return and the contribution to the charity's aims. [Source: Charity Commission What's New – 27 October 2011]