



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

# DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS

February 2009

**Martin Bishop**  
**Financial Secretary**

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To: PCC Treasurers

Dear Treasurer,

### **In this current mailing you should find:**

- (i) A Porch Card, in the case where your parish has met its parish share in full for the year, including amounts received up to 31<sup>st</sup> January. (If you have received this letter by email then the porch card, where applicable, will sent out in the conventional post to you shortly).
- (ii) A statement of your Parish Share account as at **13th February 2009**;  
(If you have received this letter by email, then the statement will arrive shortly/ will already have arrived attached to a separate email).
- (iii) Latest Newsletter from ACAT  
(If you have received this by email, the newsletter can be downloaded from <http://www.acat.uk.com/acat/page3.html> )

### **Diocesan Common Fund Outturn 2008**

The total requested from parishes last year was **£10,286,648** (2007 - £ 10,033,499) of which **£ 9,501,073** (92.4% of the amount requested) was received by the 31<sup>st</sup> January (2007 - £ 9,375,452 – 93.4%) and therefore will be included in the annual accounts as received for 2008.

### **Parish Share Account**

I enclose an updated statement for your parish, showing the position as at **13<sup>th</sup> February 2009**. This includes all remittances received up to this date and also a debit in respect of the first quarter's parish share for 2009.

### **Newsletter from ACAT**

This recent newsletter includes articles on public benefit statements for churches, trustee duties, and fund-raising.

### More on utility charges

I have received the following copy of an email from to Eon energy from one of our Treasurers, which I reproduce below with her permission.

**From:** judith gower [mailto:]  
**Sent:** 25 January 2009 14:14  
**To:** business@eonenergy.com  
**Cc:** watchdog@bbc.co.uk; Martin Bishop  
**Subject:** Account Number 8008 8390 29 Meter Number M016A0279400A6 - Gas Account St Michael's Church  
**Importance:** High

Dear Sirs,

I have just received the latest bill for gas at St Michaels Church Letchworth - it is nearly £2000 for one quarter. On reading the meter (correct reading 32500) I noticed that the meter is reading in M3 however on the bill you are converting from cubic feet to cubic metres. It would appear therefore that you have been overcharging us by approximately three times for gas since the meter was fitted in 0701.

I would appreciate that as a matter of urgency that you look at the matter and refund all monies that have been overpaid since 2001 with interest. We hold money with CCLA the Church of England Deposit Fund so interest should be calculated using their rates. A goodwill payment would also be appreciated for the stress each time these excessive bills have been received and trying to find the money to pay them.

I have copied in BBC television's Watchdog programme which brought this to my attention and the Financial Secretary for the Diocese of St Albans so that he can warn all other Churches in the Diocese.

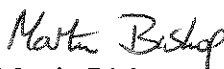
I can be contacted on xxxxx xxxxxx.

I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future.

Judith Gower (Mrs)  
Churchwarden and Treasurer

I will let you know of the outcome in due course. In the meantime can I suggest that you check your own gas bills to make sure that you are not being overcharged in a similar way.

Yours sincerely,

  
Martin Bishop  
Financial Secretary