

## **ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD**

**19 OCTOBER 2019**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS**

With reference to Question 1 **(DS/19/09)**, Mr Anthony Archer (General Synod) expressed his gratitude to the Bishop of St Albans for his very full answer. He went on to ask, whether it was stating the obvious in saying that Safeguarding was right at the top of the Church's current priorities, in terms of how it was resourced and how PCCs were regulated. Referring to the last paragraph of the Bishop of St Albans's answer, he asked whether consideration could be given for going further in requiring PCCs to make a specific annual declaration of compliance, which would therefore go further than 'boiler plate' language in their report and accounts or in the occasional answers to Archdeacons' Questionnaires? Mr Archer believed that it would put the Diocese of St Albans ahead if this was undertaken as he believed that the Diocese were already in the vanguard on Safeguarding.

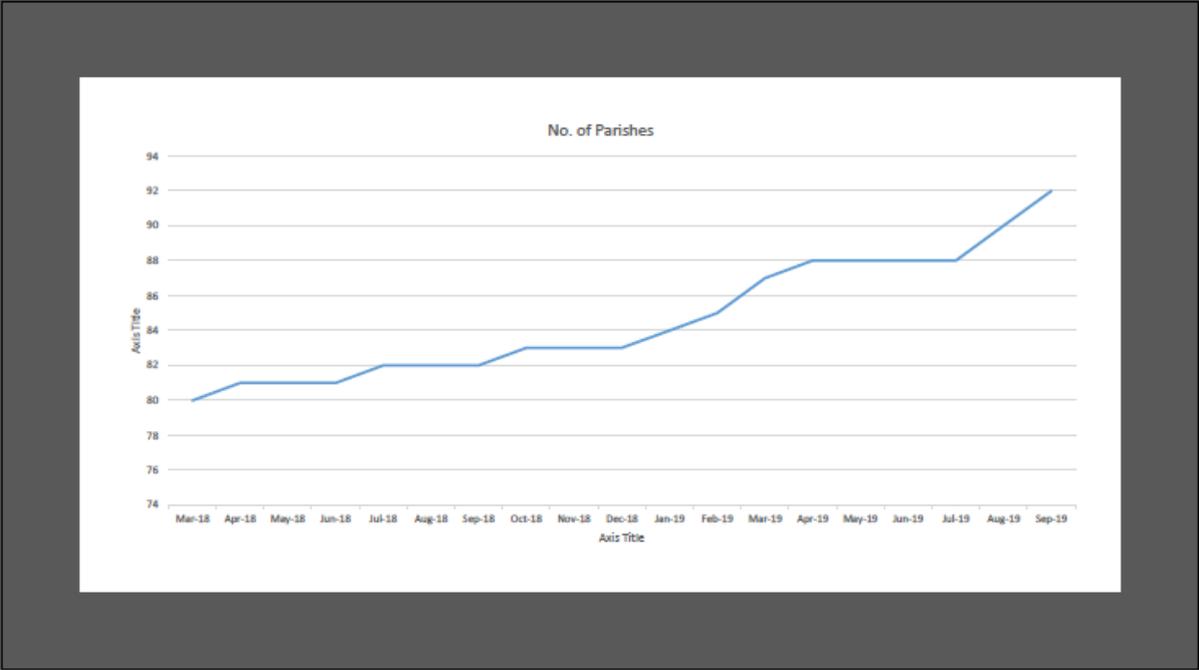
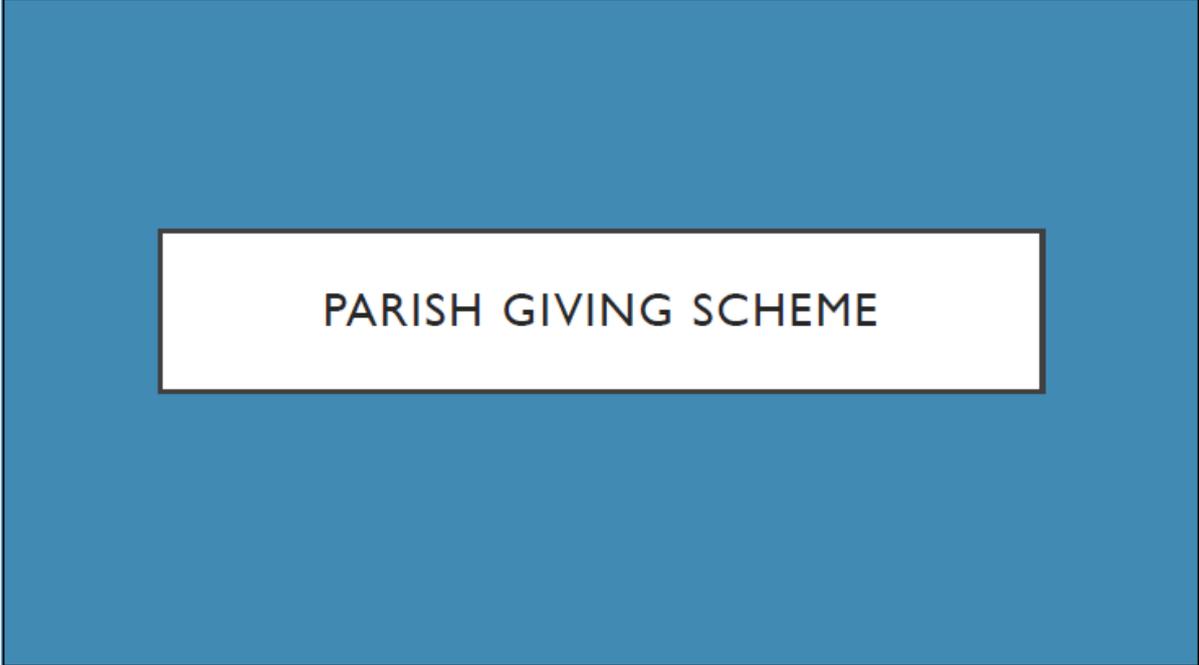
The Bishop of St Albans responded that the higher priorities were Worship and God and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. To get it into perspective, what really mattered were communities, and when it went wrong, it could devastate a church. It was high in the priorities of the Diocese.

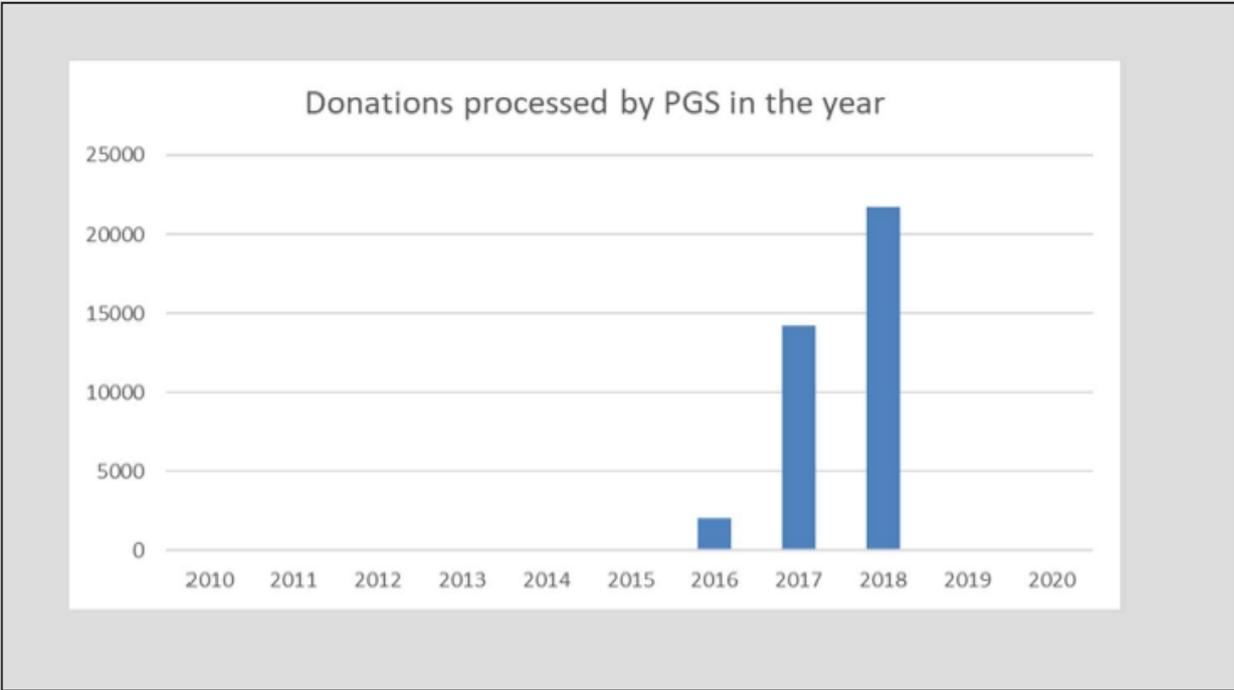
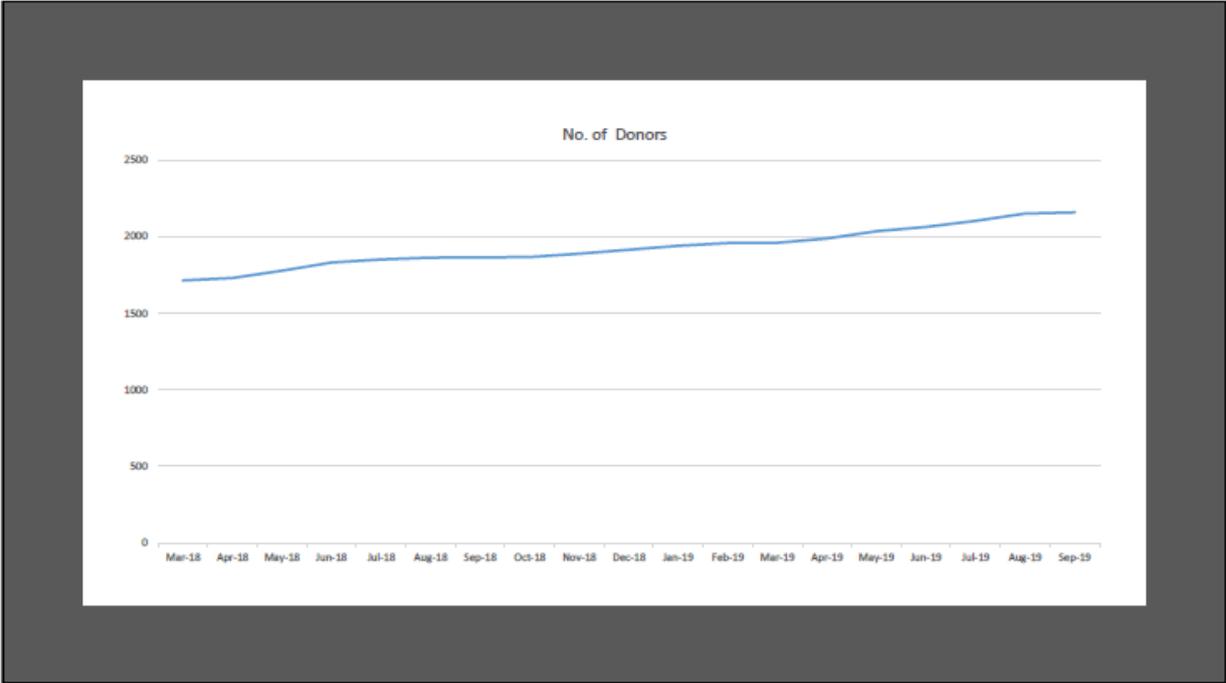
The Bishop commented that although Mr Archer's suggestion was an interesting one, there needed to be more discussion around it, as he was hearing from a lot of tired PCC Secretaries and Clergy concerned about the huge demand on their time. He agreed to take the suggestion away, and look at it, and emphasised that he was pleased to have the question asked.

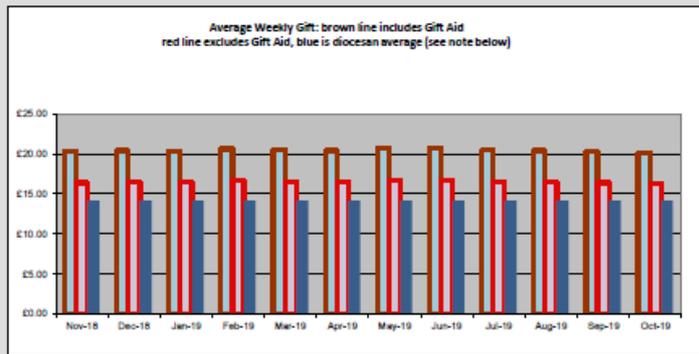
In response to Mr Archer's supplementary question, Mr John Butler (Welwyn Hatfield Deanery) commented, as a member of the Parish Safeguarding Team, that while it was a good idea to maintain adequate records, PCCs would find it difficult to check who had been on which course, and when, and that a number of other parishes shared the same difficulty. He went on to comment that the other issue was that it had been three years since the Safeguarding training had begun and the courses had to be repeated every three years. Therefore, in 2020, PCCs would be required to undertake training again. He suggested that it would be a good idea to streamline the process of recording the training to make it easier for parishes to know that they had completed everything correctly.

The Bishop of St Albans responded and thanked Mr Butler for his response, and commented that he himself had spent two half days undertaking the repeat training. He said that the problem was that everything was still emerging and being rolled out. He noted that the latest courses were likely to be offered in different ways and the Diocese had requested that the titles of courses needed to be clearer to avoid confusion. He felt that an accessible database was needed, with controlled passwords. The Bishop requested PCCs to continue feeding back to help improve the process.

With reference to Question 2 (DS/19/09), the Bishop of Hertford gave a PowerPoint presentation, as follows:







The blue line in the chart above shows average in the diocese for all giving, which is £14.20 excluding Gift Aid  
(Source: National Stats for 2015 provided by CofE Research and Statistics)

## STEWARDSHIP

- Integrated into MAP process
- Every MAP now has resourcing questions deliberately asked of it
- Resourcing mission forms part of work undertaken with parishes
- Resourcing mission integral part of MAP materials
- Two training days on Growing Generous Giving have taken place

Mr Anthony Archer (General Synod) expressed his gratitude to the Bishop of Hertford for his PowerPoint response and commented that while he was encouraged by the recent uptake of the Parish Giving Scheme, it was not often that there was a PowerPoint presentation in answer to a Synod question. He went on to suggest that it could not have been expected that Church Growth Officers would be adequately equipped themselves to work with PCC Treasurers on the technicalities of the Parish Giving Scheme. Mr Archer went on to ask if there could be a review of how the Diocese delivered mission resources, because although the slides showed that the recent momentum looked good, he believed that since the launch of the Scheme the uptake had only been modest.

The Bishop of Hertford responded that it was important to look at the outcomes: parishes using the Parish Giving Scheme, the processing of donations through the Scheme and its effectiveness in supporting giving. He went on to say that so far, the outcomes were encouraging but he could not pretend that the Diocese were all the way there yet and emphasised that this was a key part of the work going forward and the Team would continue to learn.

The Bishop of Hertford referred to the point about whether Church Growth Officers understood the technicalities of the Parish Giving Scheme, and commented that it was a good point to make and he would investigate further.