

**To: All Incumbents
cc. PCC Secretaries/Administrators and Treasurers**

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Diocesan Secretary
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Pastoral Aid Support Grants 2020

The Parish Shares and Grants Committee of the Diocesan Board of Finance will be meeting in early December 2019 to consider applications for Pastoral Aid Support grants to parishes who anticipate facing exceptional difficulties in meeting their parish share in 2020.

As in previous years, two categories of grants will be available:

- (i) grants to parishes which need additional support to maintain an appropriate level of ministry, which the Board describes as 'mission aided parishes'. A limited number of grants are awarded in this category where longer term support is needed, and these are the subject of discussions between the Archdeacon, Rural Dean and Lay Chair. The Parish Shares and Grants Committee would not expect to receive applications directly from parishes for this category.
- (ii) grants to parishes facing exceptional and unforeseen difficulties. The Board wishes to emphasise that grants in this category should be regarded as temporary and will not usually be given for more than two years in succession. The Parish Shares and Grants Committee will wish to know that the parish has submitted a Mission Action Plan in response to Living God's Love and that the parish has actively addressed stewardship and the scope for increasing giving in order to remove the need for additional support from other parishes by way of a grant. The Rev'd Kate Peacock, Church Growth Officer, is very willing to offer assistance to parishes in this situation. The Committee will also expect that the annual Accounts, Mission Statistics and Finance Returns have been submitted to the diocesan office.

Applications for the second category of grants should be submitted to the Rural Dean on the form provided. Pastoral Aid Grants awarded by the Parish Shares and Grants Committee will be subject to the parties concerned undertaking to pay the (net) parish share on a regular basis by either Standing Order or Direct Debit.

All applications for Pastoral Aid Support Grants must be supported by, and should be submitted through, the deanery. Parishes who wish to apply for a grant are therefore encouraged to contact their deanery **at the earliest opportunity** in order to meet any deadlines they may set. Deaneries have been asked to submit their recommendations for grants by no later than **Friday 25 October 2019**. The application form and guidelines can be downloaded from the Diocesan website: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/finance/finance-forms/> .

Parishes should also consider whether it would be more appropriate to apply for a church repair grant, details of which, together with an application form, are available on the website at: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/dac/diocesan-funding> . These should be returned direct to me by 25 October.

Details of the provisional Parish Share figures for 2020 are now available from the diocesan website at: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/finance/parish-share-deanery/> .

Yours sincerely

Susan E Pope
Diocesan Secretary

August 2019