

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

Miss Susan E Pope
Diocesan Secretary
Tel: 01727 818130
Email: spope@stalbans.anglican.org

Pastoral Aid Support Grants 2022

Since I wrote to you last year, the pandemic has continued to affect so much of our lives. The Board of Finance is very grateful for all that you have continued to do in your parishes in these difficult times and to all those who have continued to pay their parish share.

As usual at this time of year, I am writing with details of the process for considering applications for Pastoral Aid Support grants for next year. Once again we have considered whether this should change as a result of the impact of Covid-19 but it remains the case that the grant scheme was not designed to deal with the consequences of an event such as a pandemic, and the funding available, which is provided by parishes themselves, has been budgeted on the same basis as in previous years.

It is therefore proposed that applications submitted should again **exclude** any requests to deal with the specific effects of the pandemic. Nevertheless, we hope that the dialogue that has taken place in deanery finance forums will continue into 2022 so that we can continue to work together to address the ongoing financial implications of Covid-19.

Applications on the usual basis will therefore be on the agenda of the Board's Parish Shares and Grants Committee in late November 2021 when it will consider recommendations from deaneries for Pastoral Aid Support grants for 2022.

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, apart from Covid-19 related issues. 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.

Going Deeper into God • Transforming Communities • Making New Disciples

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 22 October 2021**. The application form and guidelines can be downloaded from the Diocesan website: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/finance/finance-forms/> .

Deaneries may also receive requests from parishes to “write-off” parish share amounts (“shortfalls”) which remain outstanding after three years or longer. For example, this autumn the Parish Shares and Grants Committee will consider applications, forwarded through the Deanery, to write-off parish share shortfalls relating to 2018 and earlier.

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 22 October.

Details of the provisional Parish Share figures for 2022 are now available from the diocesan website at: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/finance/parish-share-deanery/> .

Yours sincerely



Susan Pope
Diocesan Secretary

August 2021

Going Deeper into God • **Transforming Communities** • **Making New Disciples**

The St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales No 145227. Registered Charity No 248887

Registered Office: **Holywell Lodge, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1 1HE**
Switchboard: 01727 854532 Fax: 01727 844469 Web: www.stalbans.anglican.org