

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

**David White**  
**Diocesan Secretary**  
Tel: 01727 818130  
Email: [dwhite@stalbans.anglican.org](mailto:dwhite@stalbans.anglican.org)

### **Pastoral Aid Support Grants 2023**

Since Susan Pope wrote to you at this time last year I have taken over as your Diocesan Secretary. The pandemic continues to have an impact on our lives and finances, and we now face unknown energy price challenges too. 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.

I am writing with details of the application process for Pastoral Aid Support grants for 2023. We have considered whether this should change as a result of the continuing impact of Covid-19, the war in Ukraine or cost of living increases, but it remains the case that the grant scheme was not designed to deal with the consequences of such major external events. The funding available has been budgeted on the same basis as in previous years. Therefore, applications should continue to **exclude** any requests to deal with these specific effects. Discussions are taking place about how we can directly address these ongoing financial pressures.

The Board's Parish Shares and Grants Committee will consider recommendations from deaneries for Pastoral Aid Support grants for 2023 at its meeting in late November.

Two categories of grants will be available:

- (i) grants to parishes which need support to maintain an appropriate level of ministry, which are described 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 Committee would not expect to receive applications directly from parishes for this category.**
- (ii) grants to parishes facing exceptional and unforeseen difficulties. Grants in this category should be regarded as temporary and will not usually be given for more than two years in succession. The Committee will wish to know that the parish has submitted an up to date Mission Action Plan and that the parish has actively addressed stewardship in order to remove the need for additional support from other parishes by way of a grant.

The Revd Kate Peacock, Deputy Director of Mission and Ministry, 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 for the parish have been submitted to the diocesan office.

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

Applications for the second category of grants should be submitted **to your Rural Dean** on the form provided. Pastoral Aid Grants awarded by the 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**, your 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 **Friday 21 October 2022**. The application form and guidelines can be downloaded at: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/finance/finance-forms/> .

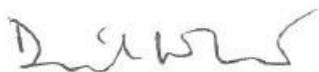
Deaneries may also receive requests from parishes to “write-off” parish share which remains outstanding after three years or longer. This autumn the Committee will consider applications, forwarded through Deaneries, to write-off parish share shortfalls relating to 2019 and earlier.

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 21 October.

A set of budget roundtable meetings have been arranged in September and early October, details will be sent to treasurers and incumbents from your Archdeacons and I would encourage you all to attend one of these sessions if you are able.

Details of the provisional Parish Share figures for 2023 will be available from the Diocesan website from Tuesday 13 September at: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/finance/parish-share-deanery/> .

Yours sincerely



David White  
Diocesan Secretary

September 2022

**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](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org)