



2nd August 2013

Martin Bishop
Financial Secretary

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Dear Treasurer,

Enclosed (Paper version only):

- 1 Parish Share Statement of account to **31st July 2013** and also SEE Round statement where applicable.
- 2 [For letters sent by conventional post]: Provisional 2014 Parish Share figures
Previous Newsletters can be found on the Diocesan website at:
<http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/finance/letters-to-treasurers/>

Parish Share 2013

I enclose the latest statement of account that includes an entry showing your Parish Share for the third quarter of the year. Payments received up to **31st July** have also been included.

Annual Budget Presentations to Treasurers, Incumbents and Churchwardens

You should have also received, this week, an invitation to this event from the Archdeacons, with fuller details, including a copy of the draft budget for 2014 and accompanying notes. If you are unable to attend the meeting in your own archdeaconry, then you are welcome to attend one of the other two meetings. In which case you might like to make a note of the dates and venues of all three meetings.

<u>Archdeaconry</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>
St Albans	Monday 2 nd September 2013	St Albans, St Stephen [AL1 2PT]
Bedford	Wednesday 4 th September 2013	St Mary the Virgin, Goldington , [MK41 0AP]
Hertford	Thursday 5 th September 2013	Hertford, All Saints [SG13 8AE]

Each meeting will start at **7:45pm**. Light refreshment will be provided, during the course of the evening, and we aim to close the meetings by approximately 9:30pm.

The meeting will give you an opportunity to ask questions of David Nye and to share the financial concerns of your Parochial Church Councils. We also wish to broaden the scope of these annual meetings to cover areas of interest to Parish Officers, to support them in their role as PCC Member and Charity Trustee. This year, the evening will include a presentation by Richard Coulson from CCLA, who will talk on general investment appraisal (not CCLA centric) and custodianship of parish resources. I hope that you will find both parts of the evening informative and practical.

Changes to the Parish Share Scheme

Further to the DBF Chairman's letter on this subject, I have been asked to clarify the impact of the change concerning the recovery of the curate-in-training costs.

Under the existing rules of the scheme, approximately 83% of the net cost of the curate's stipend contribution is already being shared across all parishes, through the Ministry Support Contribution (MSC). Once the new rules come into effect, the remaining 17% will also be passed through the MSC. This will happen in stages, over approximately four years as the existing training posts come

to an end. However this phasing out will not start until 2015, and will end in 2018.

As the amounts collected through the stipend contribution reduce, an equivalent amount will be added to the Ministry Support part of the parish share. I estimate that this will add approximately a further £50,000 each year across the diocese. In terms of the Ministry Support impact, based on the 2013 level of shares, this represents about £1.30 per share (0.75% increase).

In terms of benefits of training posts, these do not only accrue to the parishes where the curates are being trained, but also to the wider diocese. It will mean that should, in the future, your parish be offered a curate-in-training there will no longer be a stipend contribution requested as a result of that new appointment, and there will be also an allowance towards housing costs, by way of parish share reduction, should the curate be housed in a property provided by the PCC.

The other thing to bear in mind, is that parishes who do find the impact on their parish share request difficult to manage all in one year, may be considered for transitional relief through the Pastoral Aid Support grant process. Please refer to a later section in this Newsletter about this process.

Parish Share 2014 provisional figures

General comments

[\(http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/finance/parish-shares/ \)](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/finance/parish-shares/)

These provisional figures **do not include any figures for Pastoral Aid Support grants**, except for those previously agreed to cover more than one year. Most of the grants for 2014 will not be finally confirmed until the November meeting of the Diocesan Parish Shares Committee, where recommendations from deaneries will be considered.

Stipend Contributions

Please note that, **in contrast to the provisional figures published in previous years**, these estimates are based on the **current level of staffing**, unless future appointments/retirements are already announced. Confirmed figures for 2014, with updated stipend contributions, will be sent out in early December, once the latest staffing changes for 2014 are known, and also once Pastoral Aid Support grants (see below) have been allocated.

In the meantime, the following information may be of help when considering parish budgets for next year.

“Standard 2014 Stipend contribution per incumbent (in post)”: £29,185 per annum

“New vacancies”

(for vacancy periods that **start on or after** 1st January 2014): £26,267 per annum (i.e. £29,185 x 90%). Under the new rules, the reduction during vacancy is 10% throughout the entire vacancy period.

“Existing vacancies”

(for vacancy periods that **started prior to** 1st January 2014):
£23,348 per annum for the first 9 months of the vacancy, (£29,185 x 80%) and then
£11,674 per annum (£29,185 x 40%) for the remaining period of the vacancy.

“First-post curates stipend contribution”

As referred to earlier, there is no longer a stipend charge for curates *where the appointment starts on or after 1st January 2014*.

The following information is *only* relevant to those parishes with a curate-in-training where the appointment started last year or earlier.

The contribution rate is based on the following table by reference to the number of shares as shown below:

<u>Shares</u>	Proportion of full annual cost	<u>Additional Stipend Contribution</u>
0-99	15%	£ 4,518
100-199	20%	£ 6,025
200-299	25%	£ 7,531
300-399	30%	£ 9,037
400 or higher	50%	£ 15,062
(Total Annual Cost (@100%))		£ 30,124)

Ministry Support Contribution

I would be grateful if you could, in particular, review the Usual Sunday Attendance and Electoral Roll figures shown for your parish. These are taken from data provided to us, usually by your parish priest. To date just over 85% of the Mission Statistics (membership) forms for 2012 have been returned. **If you feel that these figures, which are used in the Church Membership calculation, do not properly reflect the size and composition of your congregation,** then please let, my colleague, Tony Boon know as soon as possible, as there is a small window of opportunity to correct that data before next year's parish share figures are finalised.

Pastoral Aid Support grants

Parishes seeking financial assistance with their parish share, by applying for a PAS grant, should do so by **contacting their Deanery Standing Committee as soon as possible.** The Deanery Committee, if they decide to recommend such a grant, will then need to forward your application to the Diocesan Office no later than Friday 25th October, for consideration by the Diocesan Parish Shares Committee at their meeting in November.

Application forms and guidance notes will be available from your Deanery and can also be downloaded from the Diocesan website at:

<http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/finance/finance-forms/>

Applications will only be considered if this form is duly completed and also if the latest set of annual accounts, annual finance return, and mission statistics form accompany the application, **or have already** been submitted to the Diocesan Office. Please also note that this form, after completion by the parish, should in the first instance, be forwarded to the relevant Deanery Committee for their recommendations.

As part of this process, Deaneries may also receive requests from parishes for parish share amounts ("shortfalls") outstanding for more than three years to be written off. For example, this Autumn the parish shares committee will consider applications, forwarded through the Deanery, to write-off parish share shortfalls relating to **2010 and/or earlier.**