

**May 2014****Martin Bishop
Financial Secretary**

Tel: 01727 818111

Fax: 01727 844469

e-mail: mbishop@stalbans.anglican.org

Dear Treasurer,

Filing Annual Returns

Thank you to those of you who have already sent in a copy of their PCC's Accounts for last year, and also the annual Return of Parish Finance. The information contained in these returns is collated by us, and the National Church, to inform our planning in support of parish ministry.

To those of you who have not yet sent in the Accounts or the Finance Return, may I remind you to do both as soon as possible. So far, the return rate is around 50%, and we would like to make the data which we collect and send on to the National Church, as representative and comprehensive as possible. I am happy to receive a copy of the (ideally signed) Accounts either in the conventional post, or as a scanned email attachment (preferably "pdf"). If you need a copy of the Finance Return, you can find links to the proforma, and guidance notes, from here:

<http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/finance/annual-returns-finance/> . Alternatively, if you would like to submit the finance return online, then you can do so by following this link:

www.stalbans.anglican.org/statistics.

May I also remind those of you, whose PCC is also registered separately as a charity (with your own charity number), to make sure that you are also up to date with your returns to the Charity Commission. We are advised by the National Church that the Charity Commission have recently focussed their attention on reporting compliance, and we are receiving reports that PCCs across the country are being followed up.

If your PCC's income, last year, exceeded £100,000 for the first time, and you expect it to exceed this threshold in the coming year, then you will need to register your PCC with the Charity Commission. There is guidance on how to do this on our website at:

<http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/finance/charity-registration-for-pccs/>

You may like to know that the exception whereby PCCs with an income of £100,000 or less, are not obliged to register with the Charity Commission has been extended until **31 March 2021**.

It seems probable however, that no further extension beyond 2021 will be subsequently granted. Presumably the Charity Commission will introduce some kind of phased voluntary registration in anticipation of an end to the present exception on 31 March 2021.

Finally, I wanted to say thanks for what you do as Parish Treasurer. I am acutely aware that much of what you do is "hidden", but nonetheless plays a crucial part in supporting the congregation in which you worship and serve.