

# Winchester Deanery Synod – meeting on 1.3.12

## Finance Committee Report

*Since this report was written before the Diocesan Synod meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>, it will need to be updated orally for the information produced for the Synod and decisions at the meeting.*

### 1. Share payments in 2011:

Diocese: Up to the close of books, the amount received from deaneries was £10,368,000, just 0.8% up on 2010 at this stage. The target for 2011 for deaneries was £10,700,000 gross, including the addition for contributions to Deanery Mission Funds (DMF), and £10,464,000 net, excluding DMF. All but one of the deaneries fell short of their gross target and six including Winchester fell short of their net target. The shortfall in total against net target was less than 1% against 1.4% at this stage for 2010. The improvement may be due partly to a smaller increase in the target compared with previous years – less than 1.5% gross and less than 1% net.

Deanery: Winchester Deanery's performance was disappointing. The net target was £866,600, against which by the close of books £823,300 had been paid, making our deanery's shortfall the fourth worst, in terms of £ and %. The total was also below 2010, which by the close of books was £855,900 (against a target of £875,200). (£4,500 has been paid for 2011 since the close of books.) For 2011, 20 parishes met their targets (including South Wonston, whose target was zero) and 6 fell short, nearly half the total shortfall being in a benefice whose target proved to be fundamentally unrealistic.

Consideration at diocesan level of actions to reduce shortfalls in Shares is continuing. One of the conclusions is that better monitoring of Share payments is needed, particularly at deanery level. That includes better communication of circumstances that may lead to shortfalls and regular checking of forecasts, probably quarterly.

### 2. Diocesan accounts for 2011 and budget for 2012

Despite the shortfall in Share receipts, the provisional outturn for the diocesan accounts is for a surplus, for the second year running. A surplus of between £150,000 and £200,000 is forecast as a result of higher than budgeted clergy vacancies, departmental savings, under-use of contingencies and Share receipts from prior years.

The budget for 2012, approved by the Diocesan Synod in October 2011 and reported to the Deanery Synod for its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November last, showed an increase in net expenditure of 1% over the budget for 2011, which would be about 4% more than the estimated outcome for 2011, largely because of the non-recurrence of some of the savings in 2011 (clergy and staff vacancies, reduced contingencies and provisions, national church responsibilities).

### 3. Parish Share for 2012

The diocesan budget for 2012 provided for the total gross Share (i.e. including DMF) to increase by 1% over the 2011 gross figure but all of that increase was due to an increase in DMF so that the net total was unchanged from 2011. Within the net total, however, there were wide

variations, from an increase of more than 5% to a decrease of more than 6%, because of adjustments for pastoral reorganisation. The initial target set for Winchester Deanery was 6.7% net above the target for 2011 but returns from our parishes amounted to an increase of only 1.8%, which was accepted. Compared to the actual net Share paid for 2011 (to close of books), however, the increase is 7.1%, which means that some parishes are faced with a large increase, which will require review in the very near future.

#### **4. 2013 Share**

At its meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>, the Bishop's Council did not agree on a system to apply for 2013. It seems likely that for 2013 there will be a general % increase over 2012 targets, perhaps modified to allow for pastoral reorganisation, as for 2012. A decision on the system and an apportionment to deaneries will be made at the next meeting of the Bishop's Council, on April 23<sup>rd</sup> (when Bishop Tim will be in the chair). The deaneries will then have until the end of May for consultation with the diocesan office and within deaneries to agree the deanery apportionments for consideration at the Bishop's Council meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup> and the Diocesan Synod meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June, when the 2013 budget will be decided. The Deanery Finance Committee will be considering how best to meet this timetable.

#### **5. PCC accounts**

Parishes are reminded that their accounts are due in to the diocesan office by the end of May. What are required are the annual report, the accounts and Independent Examiner/Auditor's report, the Annual Return and the Statistics for Mission. Please send a copy of these documents to me, so that I can provide the members of the Deanery Finance Committee with salient figures, etc..

#### **6. Parish Giving Scheme**

Gordon Randall will make a presentation on the scheme, devised by Gloucester Diocese, to the Diocesan Synod on February 25<sup>th</sup>. It is planned to distribute to all members of the Synod a leaflet on the subject of giving. The aims are to help parishes to embrace further their discipleship of Christian Giving, improve levels of Christian Giving, act as a catalyst for parishes to reiterate their commitment to God's mission and their stewardship of God's resources and offer a professional centrally-run parish giving scheme, to improve cash flow, offer a means of inflation-proofing and reduce the burden of administration at parish level. An 'Implementation Group' has been set up to work on the scheme (I am a member), with the aim that it will be launched for our diocese by the Bishop at the Diocesan Synod meeting on October 6th. Meanwhile, pilot schemes are being developed for 10 parishes in the diocese, including one in our deanery, King's Worthy.

#### **7. Deanery Finance Committee**

The Committee will be meeting on February 29<sup>th</sup>, to consider the matters in this report and any matters arising will be reported to the Deanery Synod meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Members of the Committee are: The Rural Dean and Lay Chairman ex-officio, the Revd Paul Kennedy, Charlie Goodall, Nick Goulding and myself (Chairman).

*Hugh Podger*  
8<sup>th</sup> February 2012

