

# Winchester Deanery Synod – meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015

## Finance Report

- 1. Parish Share payments for 2014:** The result (to 29th January) for the diocese was disappointing but Winchester Deanery did well. The mainland deaneries were £428,000 short of their commitments and £700,000 behind their budgeted assessments. The total paid by the mainland deaneries to December was just behind the corresponding figure for 2013. There were also shortfalls by the Channel Islands deaneries, mainly Jersey.

Winchester Deanery at 29<sup>th</sup> January had paid £1,015 more than its commitments. All but one of the 26 parishes met or exceeded their commitments and one was slightly behind. Winchester was the only deanery to pay more than its original total assessment, because the total of our commitments included a contingency. The deanery total of over £920,000 was also £25,000 more than to the same date in 2013. Some parishes had forecast possible shortfalls but in the end managed to pay in full.

- 2. Diocesan accounts for 2014:** Provisional figures for the outturn for 2014 show that the large shortfall in Parish Share receipts has been mostly offset by other items. The largest was more clergy vacancies than budgeted, reducing the remuneration paid and increasing rents from vacant houses. Other items were pension equalisation payments not needed, reduced expenditure on education and a contingency of about £100,000.

- 3. Common Mission Fund -Parish Share system for 2016:** The arrangements proposed will be put to the Bishop's Council on 4<sup>th</sup> February for approval. Essentially, there will be no changes of substance compared with the system used for 2015. Points to note are:

- There will be more guidance on how to assess Worshipping Community numbers and the forms issued last year will be required to be used
- There will be more guidance on how to assess affluence, including the availability of the details of the Experian ratings, and any parish wishing to change its affluence rating from the Experian rating will be required to fill in a form of explanation and may be asked for additional data; the aim is to avoid the rating deflation that was a feature of the system last year
- Cases for special consideration will include both the assessed 2016 payments and the targets, where it is not expected to attain them by 2017
- There will be a revised booklet, including the timetable for the process
- The proposed dates for the timetable are:

November 21: Deanery Finance Chairs met

February 4: Bishop's Council to approve revised documentation and guidance notes

Early February: revised documentation and guidance notes to be issued to deanery officers

February 25: Deanery Finance Chairs to meet

Start of March: draft Worshipping Community numbers and Affluence Ratings to be sent to deanery officers

Mid-March: the draft numbers and ratings to be sent to parishes

April 13: parishes to return numbers and ratings to deanery officers

May 18: confirmed numbers and ratings to be sent by deaneries to the diocesan office

Early June: 2016 Parish Shares and targets to be sent to diocesan officers

June 30: Deanery Finance Chairs to meet

July: Deaneries to consider with parishes options for mutual support and possible applications for special consideration

Early August: applications for special consideration to be received at the diocesan office

September 14: results of applications to be communicated to deaneries and parishes

October 5: final Parish Share figures to be returned by deaneries to the diocesan office

Late October: Deanery Finance Chairs to meet

November 7: Diocesan Synod.

The meeting of the Deanery Finance Chairs on February 25 will consider the timetable and process. It will be seen that there is much involvement of deanery officers.

- 4. Deanery accounts for 2014 and budget for 2015:** the subject of a separate report by the Deanery Treasurer.
  
- 5. Deanery Finance Committee:** The Committee will be meeting in April to consider the Worshipping Community numbers and affluence ratings from the parishes and to review its scope and operation.

*Deanery Finance Committee*

*2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015*