

Winchester Deanery Synod – meeting on 17th June 2015

Finance Report

- 1. Parish Share 2016:** All the parishes in our Deanery sent in their returns on affluence bands and worshipping communities on time. The Deanery Finance Committee considered the applications from parishes wishing to reduce their affluence bands from those notified by the diocesan office and supported three but did not support six. The response from the diocesan office has been delayed because not all deaneries sent in their returns on time. It had been planned that Deanery Finance Committees would receive the Parish Share figures and targets for all parishes in the week beginning 8th June but there will be a delay because of the late returns from some deaneries and the revised timetable has not been determined yet.

Worshipping Community totals for the parishes in our deanery fell by 4.3%, to 2,452 against 2,563 a year ago. Some of the fall may be because of a more accurate assessment, helped by the analysis required this time. But there must remain a concern at falling membership. 14 of our 26 parishes reported a reduction, 6 reported no change and only 6 an increase. (Another deanery has reported an increase of 3.3%.) It will be interesting to see what aims for growth are included in the parish MAPs produced in the months ahead.

- 2. Parish Share 2015:** Up to the end of May, the diocesan total of Share received was almost the same as for the first five months of 2014, 90.5% of the amount committed against 90.3% in 2014 and just £19,000 more than a year ago. The total shortfall against budget at the end of May was £419,000. To quote from the most recent diocesan communication on 'Funding our Common Mission': "In 2015 we will need a substantially better rate of collection if we are to meet all the costs we have committed to as a Diocesan community".

The total received from Winchester Deanery was £388,000 against £366,000 in 2014 but the shortfall was nearly £40,000 against £17,000 a year ago. 18 parishes were up to date and 8 were more than £1,000 behind. The diocesan office has asked deaneries to provide by the end of June their projections of Share for the year. Soundings of the parishes in our deanery have so far indicated that commitments are expected to be met in full; confirmation is sought. Our Deanery met its commitment for Parish Share in 2014 in full.

- 3. Parish Annual Report & Accounts:** These are due into the diocesan office (with copy to me) by the end of May. Some have been received and it is hoped that the rest will be this month.
- 4. Deanery subscriptions:** Invoices for the current year will be sent out very shortly. Please would parishes remit the amounts due to the Deanery Treasurer, Nick Goulding, as soon as possible thereafter.

Hugh Podger
For the Deanery Finance Committee

June 2015