

# Winchester Deanery Synod -Autumn 2015

## Finance Report

- 1. Parish Share 2015:** Winchester Deanery total paid to the end of October was £836,000, against £777,000 at the same stage last year. 18 of our 26 parishes were up to date; the shortfall from the Deanery total was £19,000 (2.2%), but it is hoped that the commitment for the year will be met in full. For the Diocese, collection of Parish Share is running ahead of last year and it is forecast that for the full year the total will be 97.8% of commitment, better than for many years.
- 2. Parish Share 2016 and targets:** The same system has been used as for 2015, based on ability to pay, as indicated by the worshipping community number and the affluence band. The total of the worshipping community for our Deanery was 3% less than a year ago, with 6 parishes reporting increases and 6 no change. Some of the reductions were through a more accurate assessment. The affluence banding for seven parishes was higher than last year, when reductions from the diocesan assessment were broadly accepted (because it was the first year of the new system); this year the reductions were not accepted – for the whole Diocese, appeals were accepted in fewer than 10 cases out of over 100. From the worshipping community and affluence figures target Shares were calculated, with a cap of 10% increase over 2015 and reductions only where 18% or more above target (to balance out the capped increases). The total commitments of Share were 1.8% above 2015, to meet the increase in the diocesan expenditure budget.

For Winchester Deanery, the 2016 Share allocation is £1,057,000, against £1,026,000 for 2015, an increase of 3%. For 12 parishes, the increase is 10%, with lesser increases for 2, no change for 8 and reductions for 4. Parishes have indicated that they will meet their allocations.

The total of the parish targets for our Deanery set in 2016 is £1,120,000, £63,000 more than the 2016 allocations. (That is £42,000 less than the targets set in 2015 because of the many increases in affluence banding while there has been a small increase in the total worshipping community.) The objective for the Diocese is that targets will be reached in 2018. While for some of our parishes, where current Shares are above target, that would not be a problem, for several others the gap would not be closed even with annual increases of 10% in Share. Provision has been made for parishes with 'Stretching Targets' to appeal for concessions and 6 of our parishes have done so. Arrangements are being made for meetings with the diocesan team (with one of the Bishops if possible) to discuss the way forward. There may be scope for the deanery to assist in this if some of the parishes due for reductions in Share do not take them by 2018 but the main action indicated by the diocesan team is for the levels of giving to be increased; that will be a diocesan objective in 2016.

- 3. Organisation:** As already advised, John Spens is taking over the chairmanship of the Deanery Finance Committee and the lay members of the Committee have been assigned as links with groups of parishes. A revised constitution and terms of reference will be put to the Deanery Synod for approval.