

Deanery Finance Committee – Report for Deanery Synod 22 February 2018

Common Mission Fund

A huge thank you for a fantastic effort in meeting CMF requests for 2017. If you think I've already used too many superlatives, don't. Not only did the Deanery meet its request for 2017 in full, but each and every parish met their request in full. Winchester was the only Deanery in the Diocese where that happened. We know that a number of parishes had warned us that things could be difficult this year. And in many cases it was the third year of 10% annual increases. So many thanks to every congregation for their generosity, and to all the parish officers and clergy who helped make it happen.

Deanery Synod finances and subscription rates for 2018

The Deanery ran a modest deficit in 2017. That was as expected as we have, at least for the moment, sufficient reserves to cope with a deficit. But that cannot continue forever and we are aiming to reduce the deficit over time. At the last Synod it was agreed to increase the subscription rate by £5 to £95 per member. Nick Goulding will be sending out subscription invoices in the next couple of months.

Keep in touch

While the Finance Committee always likes to hear from parishes, there are a couple of instances where we'd be particularly grateful to be kept informed: firstly if there is a change in Treasurer; secondly if any parish thinks it may struggle to meet its CMF request for the year.

Parish bank accounts

The Diocesan office recently took a query from a parish that had been warned that their bank (one of the big High Street ones) would soon start charging for transactions such as paying in cash and for processing cheques: were there any banks that would not charge for a medium-sized parish? The collective wisdom (myself excluded) of the Finance Committee was wary of that question. The overall direction of travel for all banks seems pretty clear: if there are banks that do not charge at present, then that could well change soon. Meanwhile the process of changing banks is rarely straightforward: many Treasurers will have their own horror stories of making even minor changes.

There may, however, be ways of reducing banking costs. Many parishes are using internet banking for making payments, and there are ways of doing that consistent with double-signature policies too (Nick Goulding has kindly offered to handle any questions on that: nick.goulding@btinternet.com). And on the other side of the account, the Parish Giving Scheme (<https://www.winchester.anglican.org/parish-giving-scheme/>) puts regular payments straight into parish bank accounts with the Gift Aid already claimed.

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