

CENTENARY SHARE - MUTUAL SUPPORT

This paper is an extract from the notes of the Deanery Organisers' meeting held on November 13th 2014, it sets out the process by which mutual support could be provided.

When the Centenary Share Allocations were sent out in 2013, they were accompanied by a letter from the Chairman of the DBF. In the letter it set out the importance of those parishes where they had received a reduction standing with those parishes which had received an increase.

'The assessment is sent to all PCC treasurers and it is for **each benefice**, working with the Deanery Organiser, to work out exactly how they will apportion the allocation among the parishes. With any new system there will be those who will be asked to contribute less than in previous years and those who will be asked to contribute more. We hope that locally those who are asked for less will feel that they can help out neighbouring benefices where they are being asked to contribute more and who would otherwise find it difficult to support their level of Ministry. It may be that as a deanery the overall contribution is less and that the deanery will feel able to contribute towards the needs of others in the diocese. I will be arranging meetings with the Deanery Organisers throughout the year to keep in touch with how you are all progressing.

The final amount assessed and clearly shown at the bottom of the assessment sheet is the amount the Board of Finance is asking you to contribute so that we will have sufficient to meet the bills that have to be paid. The assessment sheet also identifies the total Centenary Share. If you are able to meet this target then that would be a wonderful achievement and help toward the objective of every deanery meeting its share in full and with no transitional support which will come to an end in 2016.

At a recent meeting of Deanery Organisers it was recognised that the benefice allocation is a starting point for discussion and that the role of the Deanery Organiser is key to ensuring good communication between benefices and parishes to ensure full payment. The DBF has allocated £410,000 in Transitional Relief to help those benefices where there is a significant rise in allocation. It is hoped that with the support of neighbours some of the benefices will be able to reach their target and that this relief will not be needed.'

A process for establishing mutual support

The benefice draft allocations are sent out after the Finance Committee in September. They are indicative. Many DOs welcomed this as it enabled an early discussion among treasurers within a deanery about whether parishes would be able to make the payments. Several DOs spoke of the importance of having a representative of each benefice present at a discussion of how the share might be allocated within a deanery.

In order to develop mutual support within benefices, deaneries and across the diocese there is a four stage process

Stage 1: The initial allocation is sent to the benefices. They worked out whether they would be able to contribute in full

Stage 2: The deanery discussion about who could pay in full, who would need help and who could offer help.

Stage 3: When the deanery and the benefices have worked out allocations these need to be returned to the Diocesan Office. It is helpful if DOs can at that stage offer any insights into what additional mutual support might be forthcoming within a deanery over the year and also where they feel there are cases for help from other deaneries. We know that there are benefices where even with mutual support in a deanery they will not be able to make a full payment. Many are in areas of great need. These are benefices that need the support from the wider diocesan family.

Stage 4: Partnership or mutual support. If a deanery is able to offer support beyond its own benefices to others at that stage the DOs should be in contact with the Secretary of the Giving Group who will maintain the list of benefices as identified in stage 3. Deaneries or benefices can make additional payments either to a parish / benefice, or direct to the DBF on behalf of a parish or benefice.

If there are any parishes that want to make additional payments to or on behalf of other parishes an wish to know where DOs have identified real need they should contact Graham Hedger.