



Q. What are the expectations of the Diocese regarding the collection rates for the parish share in 2020?

A. The Diocese accepts that the impact of the measures and restrictions placed upon churches because of the Covid 19 Pandemic will affect churches finances in 2020. With this in mind the Diocese is forecasting a combined potential loss in the region of £6M over 2020 and 2021, a forecast shortfall of £3.5M in 2020; Parish Share receipts being a significant element as well as other forms of income.

Q. Will the Diocese write off any outstanding Parish Share payments that churches are unable to make in 2020?

A. It is proposed that the Diocese will not take a “blanket approach “ to writing off outstanding Parish Share payments but will work with churches individually to agree actions to address instances of significant financial hardship. It is currently suggested that any Churches experiencing significant financial hardship will be asked, in the first instance, to complete a financial pro-forma, to support this process.

Q. What will be the approach of the Diocese be to churches who have Parish Share arrears pre 2020 and where a package of measures has previously been agreed?

A. It is being suggested that any packages from churches experiencing significant financial hardship that do not meet the agreed criteria in the current year are suspended due to the current situation. These churches will be asked to complete the financial pro-forma referred to above and the previous arrears and actions will be considered along with any measures required in respect of 2020 to arrive at a consolidated position.

Q. What approach will the Diocese take in 2021 regarding the Parish Share?

A. Subject to the approval of Diocesan Synod, it is proposed that the Diocese will keep the requested Parish Share for all parishes the same in 2021 as 2020. This proposal is in the current forecast models for 2021. Notwithstanding this commitment the Diocese is looking to amend the method for calculating the Parish Share which includes the additional support given to some parishes from the Church Commissioners Grant. The Church Commissioners guidance on the Grant is clear that the emphasis should be on parishes with high levels of deprivation.