

Stroud Deanery Financial Update – October 2022

Deanery Parish Share 2022

The latest Parish Share report for the Stroud Deanery

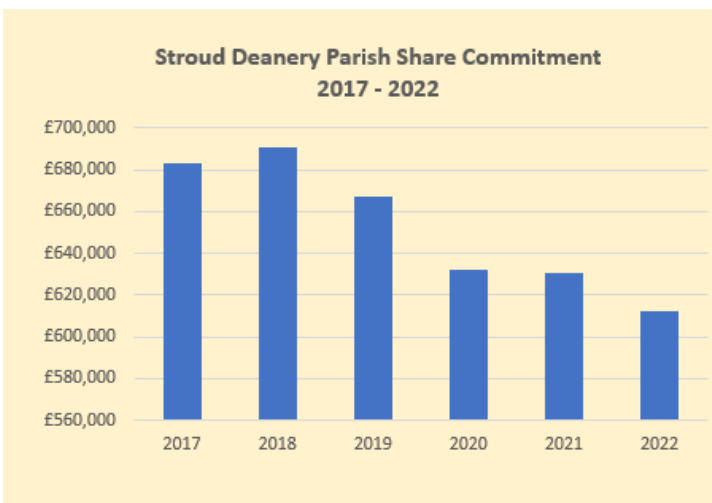
(at the time of writing this report)

The first 8 months of 2022 - 66% (expected 66%) of pledged Parish share for the year has been received by the Diocese. So, thank you to all those parishes who have managed to meet their pledges so far for this year! The Deanery is showing a shortfall of £170,000 on pledged Parish Share for 2022 so any extra would be much appreciated. We do understand how difficult parish finances are at the moment.



At the Diocese request, we recently held a Deanery Treasurers Meeting which was also attended by Archdeacon Hilary. The Diocese reported that if the shortfall in Parish Share across the Diocese cannot somehow be addressed then the ability to pay all our clergy in 10 years' time would be in doubt. We realise that there is no magic wand to wave to solve the issue and the pressures we all face at this time. However, we did have a good discussion which resulted in some action points to be addressed.

The two bar charts below, show how our Deanery Parish Share has decreased over the past 6 years with the corresponding difference between the requested amount from the Diocese and the actual amount committed by the Deanery Parishes. Our Deanery is not alone in this – across the Diocese there is currently a deficit of £1.7Million in the Clergy Stipend Fund.



However, we must be thankful for the amount the Deanery can currently contribute to maintain our Clergy. We also thank our Clergy for all that they do for us. We do need them!!

The Parish Share reports for 2022 can be found on the Gloucester Diocese website using this link
www.gloucester.anglican.org/parish-resources/parish-finance-gift-aid-legal-advice/parish-share/

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As part of the Treasurers meeting, we asked the Treasurers to complete a questionnaire. We were grateful for those 25 that were returned and gave us an idea of what is happening in the Deanery Parishes. The following is a brief summary of the information given:



- Most Parishes will be able to meet their Parish Share commitment for 2022
- Most Parishes could not forecast any increase their Parishes Parish Share for 2023 over the amount pledged in 2022
- Most Parishes are just coping financially with a few who are finding it exceptionally difficult at this time.
- Those Parishes who make use of the Parish Giving Scheme (well done!) would recommend that those who don't should investigate it's use.
- Most told us that church attendance was not back to pre-covid levels (could be for many various reasons).

Deanery Administration Function

Thank you to all the parishes who have contributed to the Deanery Administration Function for 2022. Please could you check with your Treasurer that your parish has made a contribution as we are about £1,500 less than we expected.

Reminder – as agreed by Deanery Synod, the percentage requested was 1.2% of your 2022 Parish Share commitment. One parish is contributing in monthly installments which helps their finances and Deanery Funds!

Sally has had extra work this year organizing and recording many Deanery Mission Planning Meetings.



Remember the question I ended my last update with?

What W can you eat or is talking about nothing much for a long time?
The answer is Waffle!



Quiz nights with multi-media questions can be great fun and a source of income for your Parish. My wife and I have been acting as Quiz Masters for charity events for a number of years. Do contact us if we can help (we're free!).

And finally, this was one question we asked at one quiz. I'm sure you know the answer!
Who was the pioneer of Sunday schools, born in Gloucester in 1736?



Mike Lambert
October 2022

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