

Message from the Archdeacons and Chief Financial Officer to Area Deans / Assistant Area Deans and Lay Chairs.

## The New Parish Share Model

Dear Colleagues

At a recent meeting of Bishop's Council, members voted to postpone the introduction of the new parish share model, originally proposed to be implemented in 2025, until 2026. Whilst Bishop's Council members were broadly supportive of the proposed new model and its principles, they felt that introducing it for 2025 would have been too rushed, especially in light of feedback from some deaneries who felt that more detailed work and consultation was required. The aim of this further work is to ensure that the new model provides:

A system that everyone understands, with clarity and transparency about how much they are contributing towards the total resources necessary to sustain parish ministry, both at a local level and across the Diocese

- A system that offers support, accountability and responsibility, being clear on expectations and open and honest about deliveries.
- A system that is realistic and founded on sound financial principles, but at the same time aspirational and stretching in generous giving – both seeking to cover local costs of mission and ministry and striving to support others across the diocese.

This decision was reported to last week's meeting of Diocesan Synod. The draft paper detailing the new model can now be refined in the light of the discussion at Bishop's Council, and there will also be an opportunity for any further feedback from the deaneries to be brought to the September Area Deans' meeting. This new timetable will allow the model to be approved at Bishop's Council in November 2024, brought to Synod in February 2025, and implementation consultation meetings to take place in every deanery in the spring of 2025.

Bishop's Council has tasked the Archdeacons to work with the Chair of the Board of Finance and the Chief Financial Officer during August to prepare deanery requests for 2025. This will be done using data from 2022 and 2023, incorporating an appropriate inflationary increase, and seeking to address any anomalies that may have been present in past requests. **These requests will be sent to Area Deans and Lay Chairs for comment before being sent out in early September. This will allow time for deanery meetings in October to discuss how this will be divided between benefices. With all deanery commitments communicated to the finance team by December, we hope for a smooth start to parish share collection in January 2025.**

We remain deeply thankful for the shared commitment to parish share and look forward to the introduction of the new model in due course. Please would you share this news within your Deanery as appropriate, including treasurers, and do come back to us if anything is not clear.

Yours very sincerely

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