

## **Parish Share Review Process**

### **Major Review – Option A**

*The Archbishop's Council notes the motion of Diocesan Synod passed on 4 July 2023 which requested a review of the Parish Share system. The Council calls upon the Finance and Assets Committee to set up such a review under the chairmanship of the Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance. This review will:*

- 1. Consider how we fund our common life in the light of the current missional and financial challenges*
- 2. Seek the views of parishes and deaneries across the diocese*
- 3. Give consideration to the last 3 Parish Share Reviews (2013, 2016 and 2020)*
- 4. Consider potential methodologies for the allocation of Parish Shares,*
- 5. Consider the theology and ecclesiology of the different methodologies and which would give rise to the fairest allocation to deaneries and parishes across the diocese,*
- 6. Consider the balance between centrally funded mission and local mission*
- 7. Consider how best to communicate with parishes and deaneries and how to educate people as to the purposes of parish share and its allocation.*
- 8. Report to the Finance and Assets Committee upon its findings*

*From these findings make recommendations to the Finance and Assets Committee and thence to the Archbishop's Council on an appropriate methodology for Parish Share by May 2024 with a view to presenting to the Diocesan Synod in July 2024.*

*The review group to be made up of the following:*

- 1. The Chair of the Board of Finance*
- 2. The Diocesan Secretary*
- 3. other representatives with financial or missional expertise or experience to include*
  - a. An Area Dean or Parish Incumbent*
  - b. A Deanery Treasurer*
  - c. A Parish Treasurer*
- 4. Supported by The Diocesan Director of Finance and other officers as requested by the group*

*The group to have an appropriate gender balance and cross diocesan representation.”*

## **Minor Review – Option B**

That consideration be given to the way that shared costs are calculated within the Parish Share System

*The Council calls upon the Finance and Assets Committee to set up such a review under the chairmanship of the Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance. This review will consider:*

How the Average Weekly Attendance (AWA) figures, Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) figures, Usual Sunday attendance figures, unrestricted income figures and potentially local population figures and other metrics should be used to determine a formula than is consistent with the ambition to grow our church numerically. It will also clearly define how any averages are to be calculated.

The 2020 review recommendation regarding to the Shared Costs element of the Parish share stated:

“Currently the attendance data used in Parish Share allocation computations is derived from the annual national ‘Statistics for Mission’ submissions. Currently completion of these statistics has been reducing across the diocese and where this happens the highest AWA from the last 3 years is used. It is noted that the overriding diocesan objective is for growth and using a flat figure is not in line with this objective. Accordingly, **it is recommended that where an attendance figure is not submitted to the ‘Statistics for Mission’ data collection each year (and once the effects of Coronavirus has ceased to affect the counting of church attendances) then an assumed figure of the highest attendance for the last 3 years plus 3% is used.**”

## **No Review – Option C**

That no review be carried out at this time.

## **POSTSCRIPT**

Within the last few days, we have heard from Archbishops’ Council and the National Church Institutions that Archbishops’ Council has agreed to review the Church of England’s “financial system” - focusing primarily but not exclusively on the future shape of Diocesan apportionment and Lowest Income Communities Funding. They recognise that the time has come for “a new model which will better serve the Church as we seek for deliver our Vision and Strategy for the next decade and beyond.” They have appointed accountancy firm BDO to undertake a review of diocesan finances working with Diocesan Finance Teams between now and the end of February 2024. The second phase of work to develop an alternative model will follow commencing in late 2024.

Stephen Taylor  
Diocesan Secretary  
24 October 2023