

Statement to Diocesan Synod – Feb 2020

I would like to update synod with our indicative financial position for 2019.

I must stress at this stage that these figures are an early draft, hot off the press and currently unaudited.

We are grateful for the commitment, generosity and sacrifice shown in the parish share contributions for 2019.

Final figures show that the amount of money contributed has increased by 5.3% compared with 2018.

Whilst this cash increase is the most important statistic, you may also want to know that this represents 78% of the original amount requested, and 84% of the amount after Grants and Allowances have been applied.

These figures are encouraging, but if we can still only hit an 84% collection rate even after Grants and Allowances then this shows that there remains some very significant challenges with the nature of our Parish Share System, which we will be considering later this morning.

With regard to the final outturn for the DBF for 2019, the draft Management Accounts show a deficit of around £700,000 from our underlying activities. This rises to around £860,000 when the planned spending on our Calling Young Disciples project is taken into account.

This is both good news and bad news! Good news, in that the increased parish share contributions has helped bring us to a lower deficit in the first year of our recovery plan, when compared with the deficit in 2018 and our expected deficit for 2019. The Bad news, is that a deficit of £700,000 is still a deficit of £700,000!

Once again one-off exception gains of circa £3m will turn this underlying operating deficit into a reporting surplus when the final Statutory Accounts are produced. But by their very nature one-off gains can not be expected to be repeated and I would anticipate that this week's issues on the Stock Exchange will have already reversed some of those gains.

Nevertheless, my overall sense is that this is a really positive year – the actions that all of us have taken are starting to bear fruit. We will need to continue to keep focused on this, though. Thank you, your parishes and deaneries for your support and generosity in 2019, may it continue in 2020 and beyond.

Eric Wiles, Deputy Chair of the DBF