



16 December 2022

Dear Treasurer,

Cc Incumbents, Deanery Organisers, Rural Deans and Lay Chairs

Parish Share update / Year End Letter from the Finance Team

Within this letter you will find the following:

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1. Parish Share 2022

Thank you so much for all your efforts so far this year in raising parish share in what we all know has been a challenging time. As at 15th December, we have received £5.5m which is 78.6% of the original target. This amount was at a similar level to the same time last year, and we recognise what an achievement this is and the efforts so many of you had made to reach this. We appreciate how hard our parishes are working towards paying as much as they can, in particular with additional challenges around rising costs. **Our accounts will remain open until 31 January 2022 to receive payments towards the 2022 parish share targets.**

We are still some £0.9m short of the budgeted target (net of any shortfall allowance) and so are grateful for your ongoing efforts to continue to contribute towards 2022 parish share.

We continue to send out statements on a monthly basis and you should have received a statement (via email) as at 3 December 2022 and so your next statement is due on 3 January 2022. If you haven't already done so, please do check that payments you have made have been received and allocated to you correctly.

For this year due to the timing of bank holidays, postal strikes and office closure, we know that a higher volume of cheques sent in the post during this time won't be cashed until after 4th January and so may not appear on the December statement which is automatically sent out on the 3rd of each month. Please be assured these will be allocated to your 2022 account and we will send out regular reports during January so that you are able to track any payments made.

If you are in any doubt of your parish share target for this year, please contact your Deanery Organiser who can advise. Alternatively we produce a monthly share report which provides the targets and current balances and can be found on the website at [Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich | Parish share \(cofesuffolk.org\)](https://www.cofesuffolk.org)



Please note that we will close our books for receiving payments which relate to parish share in 2022 on 31 January 2023. Payments received after that date, unless we know about them in advance, will be treated as 2023 parish share.

Any cheques must be received at the office by 31 January 2023 to be included in your 2022 Parish Share figures. Cheques received after this date will only be accounted for in your 2022 figures if you have told us by 31 January to expect the cheque so that we can accrue for it, allowing us to finalise our own accounts. **We are closing our accounts early in February so please do let us know as early as possible.**

2. Parish Share 2023 allocation

The Diocesan Synod approved the parish share allocation for 2023, and we have been working via Rural Deans, Lay Chairs and Deanery Organisers to share the deanery breakdowns with benefices over the last few weeks.

As in previous years the share has been allocated at a benefice level and it is for each benefice, working with the Deanery Organiser, to apportion the allocation amount to the parishes both in your benefice and across the whole deanery. Some deaneries and benefices have already done this and returned their allocations, but if you have not as yet done so, please contact your Deanery Organiser (or if there is no Deanery Organiser, the Rural Dean and/or Lay Chair) to do so. We need to be able to allocate at this level in order set up the reporting processes for 2023. We do accept that this may take a little more time than normal, but please do try to submit parish allocations as soon as practicable. At the very latest, we would appreciate receiving these by 31st January 2023 for us to begin reporting parish share payments.

We have attached a benefice proforma which you may find useful if you need to provide a breakdown of share. Where your Deanery Organiser has sent in or intends to send in a breakdown for the whole Deanery, then there is no need to return this information.

As far as possible, we need all the allocations back regarding 2022 share by Tuesday 31st January 2023.

Financial Support

We recognise that some benefices and parishes may struggle to meet their parish share in 2023, and we will continue to offer short - medium term support where we can. Recognising the difficulties some have faced in 2022, we are reviewing how best we can offer this support, given our resources are constrained and will let you know in the new year the process for applying for support during 2023.

If you do believe that this situation applies to your parish or benefice, your first contact is your Deanery Organiser. If you are unsure who this is, please contact me or Julie Podd who will gladly assist.

For 2023 we are aware that there are several parishes who cannot meet their share, some of which fall short by a significant amount. If you would like to assist the poorest parishes to meet their share, please contact your Deanery Organiser in the first instance. If none of your Deanery require support, then please feel free to contact us (contact details at end of this letter).



For our forward planning and budgeting, communication is key. Please keep us informed of any issues which may arise which inhibit your ability to pay your share.

3. Standing Orders and Remittance Advices

Please find enclosed a standing order form and some remittance advices. Further copies will be available on the diocesan website under Parish Share in the "For Parishes" section (<https://www.cofesuffolk.org/parish-finance/parish-share>).

Please consider paying your parish share by direct bank transfer where this is possible through on-line banking. This helps us to process payments more efficiently and directly.

If you do wish to pay all or part of your 2023 parish share by standing order, please complete the form as soon as possible and either return to your own bank or to us in the office, and we will do this for you. Please ensure that any references you use for this include your parish name (this can be a shortened version to save space) and "Share 23", this helps us to ensure that it is allocated to the correct parish and year.

If you are paying by BACS, please ensure that any references are the same as above, with your parish name and "Share 23". Please email us to let us know that the payment is coming and what it is for to the following email address remittance@cofesuffolk.org.

The remittance advice is for those parishes who are still paying by cheque. Please ensure you include some paperwork which clearly states the name of the parish and what the payment is for.

4. Payments made in January 2023

Please ensure that all payments in January 2023 are clearly marked to show which parish and year they are for. If you make a payment in January which doesn't show the year and your parish still has a balance outstanding for 2022 the team will try to contact you to check which year you are paying, **however if this is not possible, they will automatically allocate the payment to 2022. Please help us by being clear which year you are paying for!**

5. Online Share Information

A monthly share report is produced for the diocese and can be found on the diocesan website <https://www.cofesuffolk.org/parish-finance/parish-share>

This is emailed to Deanery Organisers, Rural Deans, Lay Chairs, and Incumbents every month.

6. Parish Trusts

For those parishes for which we hold trusts, we endeavour to send out the accounts (although we are reliant on external information), by the end of January 2023. I appreciate that everyone is busy trying to collect information for their accounts, but please do not ring us to chase the trust figures until early February as this can delay the process for everyone.



7. Parish Resources

Help and advice for treasurers can be found on the Archbishop's Council website at <http://www.parishresources.org.uk/>.

This includes detailed guidance on how to claim gift aid small donation relief at - <http://www.parishresources.org.uk/giftaid/smalldonations/>

For any queries or advice on stewardship, giving including the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), contactless, online donations and QR codes, and resources, please contact Julie Podd, who is happy to support you. Further details are available - [Parish resources - Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich \(cofesuffolk.org\)](http://www.cofesuffolk.org/parish-resources)

If you would like advice and help around funding and grants, please contact Beccy Hills. Further details can be found at - [Grants and fundraising for your parish - Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich \(cofesuffolk.org\)](http://www.cofesuffolk.org/grants)

8. Parochial Fees for 2023

The fees table for 2023 is now available on the diocesan website on the parochial fees page: <http://www.cofesuffolk.org/parish-finance/parochial-fees>

As per the last three years, we intend to continue to account for funeral services at a crematorium where there is no service in a church by attributing a £33 fee to the PCC and the remainder being payable to the DBF. The 2023 table of fees reflects the continuation of this practice.

As a reminder, the fee for the funeral should be received by the PCC of the Incumbent who takes the funeral, irrespective of the parish from which the deceased came, and this should be clearly reflected when submitting the PF1 form.

If you have any queries in relation to completing PF1 forms, please contact Frances Blakeway in the finance team at fees@cofesuffolk.org.

9. Energy Support Grants

A communication was sent informing all PCC's of an energy grant scheme for those PCC's who are experiencing significant increased energy costs for the church building/s. Funds will be distributed on the basis of an application. As a reminder, here is the link to the application form if you wish to be considered - <https://s.surveypal.com/76vvglg0>

10. Diocesan Office Christmas

The Diocesan Office will be closed for routine matters from Friday 23rd December to Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Again, our thanks for your commitment and efforts throughout a challenging year! We look forward to working with you and supporting you in your parishes in 2023 and may we take



this opportunity to wish you and your church members a merry Christmas and happy new year!

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

Gary Peverley
Finance Director

Attachments:

Parish Share 2023 Benefice breakdown Proforma
Standing Order Form
Remittance advice slips

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