

**To: Clergy of Incumbent Status
Churchwardens
PCC Treasurers
PCC Secretaries**

1 August 2018

Proposal to introduce a formula to inform Parish Offers

We are considering enhancing the existing Parish Offer system by introducing 'Indicative Offers' for each parish. We want to enable each parish to assess their Pledged Offer based on a common formula and to prayerfully determine their contribution towards the costs of shared ministry and mission across the whole diocese according to the parish's ability to make it.

This important change has been driven by parishes requesting guidance on an appropriate amount for their Pledged Offer and by the real financial challenge we face.

We will be launching a consultation on the proposal to modify the Parish Pledged Offer scheme with the introduction of Indicative Offers and encourage every parish to take part.

We want to be able to plan more confidently for the future and ensure that the financial challenge we face as a diocese is shared fairly and equitably.

This move will support ***Called Together*** and our plans for the next five years. A number of dioceses have similarly recently reviewed their parish offer systems and have seen real benefits.

We believe the introduction of Indicative Offers will:

- Reaffirm our common identity and purpose;
- Achieve greater fairness, openness and transparency;
- Ensure consistency and certainty for long-term planning.

The proposals followed discussion by a working group of incumbents and parish treasurers drawn from across the Diocese. In June, we outlined to Diocesan Synod our proposals for the introduction of Indicative Offers and a timetable for consultation with parishes.

We have listened to the points raised during the debate so far and, in July, Bishop's Council reflected further on the timetable for consultation. We also have been working to ensure that we have sufficient verified Parish Finance Returns for 2017 on which to base the calculations that will be published.

Accordingly, the timetable for the consultation has been revised and is as follows:

2018

w/c 3 September	Deanery/Parish Indicative Offers published
7 September	Consultation with parishes commences
2 November	Close of Consultation
28 November	Bishop's Council – Report and Recommendation

2019

2 March	Diocesan Synod – final decision
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During this time, special meetings are being organised with Area Deans and Parish Treasurers.

In the first week of September, we will issue a pack of information on Indicative Offers which will be downloadable from the diocesan website www.rochester.anglican.org and available in hard copy upon request. In addition, there will also be an online survey where comments can be given. We will notify you nearer the time and send you a link when this is available.

This is an important change and we value your help in sharing this with parishioners.

Yours sincerely,



Rev Richard Williams BSc FCA
Finance Director