

1 – What really matters?

Keeping the positive relationship that was built between parishes and diocesan finance team pre COVID. This will be crucial to plan ahead.

Keep giving our congregations hope, there is a feeling that hope for the future of the church is fading.

Serving all of God's people, during lockdown much energy has been focussed on keeping congregations together, we must now focus on the wider community.

We cannot keep focussing on buildings that sap all of the energy that should be used for mission.

How do we keep connectivity with those who have no access to technology either through finance or their inability to manage new concepts? There are a lot.

2 – How do we use the budget to serve God's people everywhere?

How can we all be equal when parishes with full time clergy and a healthy bank balance can grow even bigger because they can concentrate on mission? Poor parishes, in long term interregnum with small voices concentrate their time raising money and worrying about paying parish share. No mission, no growth therefore no increase in financial giving.

Step up lay ministry training and the creation of well trained and vibrant ministry teams. Deploy Readers where possible creating focal ministries. Look at congregations and approach those who may need the conversation about their calling. Be better organised.

COVID has brought forward the inevitable, we must embrace changes that have come with it and work with them. Need to look at new ways to generate income. That may in some cases mean a reality check in congregations with those who are unwilling to look at any new ways until the last funeral has been held in church.

Parishes in vacancy are feeling weary, look where the needs are.

Why is there a part time post to support lay training unfilled?

3 – How do you feel about this?

Despairing – sorry its negative, can't see a way out

When budget proposal goes out to the parishes who will hear about it, is it the usual suspects?

Ask for donations from those who haven't been spending throughout the lockdown period. Do it as a mission within parishes.

Final Thoughts

Going to be in deficit anyway, going to have to find a way to live with it.

Hang on to hope and courage and pray for better times

Bring a reality check to parishes, be honest with those we depend on for their generosity.