



Parish Offer 2023

Our Common Fund for a common purpose Resourcing God's mission in Hereford Diocese

Discussion points for a PCC

The questions below are **suggestions** for your PCC agenda when you meet to discuss and prayerfully decide your Parish Offer contribution for the year ahead. It is unlikely you will use all the questions in the same PCC meeting, so choose the ones you think will be most useful in helping PCC members to understand how we fund our Diocese and the vital contribution your PCC can make to resource mission and ministry in Hereford Diocese.

Individual giving

"If my giving was returned to me each week or month, would it make any real difference to me?" If the answer is no, perhaps we need to think again about our giving. Or, to ask a different question, *"what would my regular giving to my church buy if I spent it on myself?"* Again, if the answer is 'not so much', perhaps we need to think again.

Questions:

- How do you decide how much to give the church each week or month? Is it what you have left in your pocket or do you calculate what proportion of your income you will give?
- If you calculate it, how often do you review it?
- If you have a bank account but still give by putting money in the collection plate, what might be the advantages to you and to the church of arranging a standing order instead?

Our Parish Offer to the Common Fund

Every parish is invited to make a commitment no later than 30 June 2022 to our Common Fund for 2023. We need to think carefully and prayerfully how we use God's gifts to us to further the work of the church in our diocese: and how we relate to each other and support each other between parishes, benefices and deaneries.

Questions:

If your parish or benefice commits a large enough contribution to the Common Fund to provide for ministry costs in your own area, what would be your priorities if you had more money to offer:

- helping another benefice in the deanery that couldn't afford its own ministry; *or*
- helping another deanery that couldn't contribute enough to the Common Fund;
or
- supporting new initiatives for growth, at local or diocesan level?

How would you work out how to prioritise between those options?

Doing things differently

'If you only do what you always did, you will only get what you always got.'

Question:

How might we use our existing resources (people, buildings, money and skills) differently in order to make a difference in terms of numerical growth, spiritual growth and encouraging the younger generation?

The need

- Do all PCC members understand the way in which we finance our local mission and ministry in Hereford Diocese?
- Do all PCC members understand the cost of ministry in this parish/benefice?
- Do PCC members understand that ministry costs are likely to increase over time?
- Do churchgoers and visitors know how the church is funded, and is it easy for them to give?

Our financial potential

- Are our church members giving generously to the church?
- What other sources of income do we have?
- How have our sources of income increased or decreased over the past two or three years, and do we know why?

Existing commitments

- What have we agreed to give towards ministry and mission in Hereford Diocese this year?
- What commitments (if any) have we made for future years?

Our Parish Offer to the Common Fund for next year

- What issues suggest that we should increase our contribution? What things might suggest that we should reduce our contribution?
- Are we contributing the full costs of our ministry and therefore are we self-financing?
- Are we meeting the aspiration of being self-financing and being generous on top of that? What would constitute a generous contribution to the Common Fund next year?
- What will we commit?
- How can we explain our commitment to others?
