

Flourish House
Cathedral Park
Wells
Somerset
BA5 1FD

17 March 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As 2021 continues to test our resolve and resilience, I want to thank you again for the considerable time and effort you are putting in to supporting your parishes.

As you know, at the start of year, the Diocese normally sends out a Parish Share survey to complete. This survey asks for details of the changes in parishes' regular worshipper numbers and the assessment of the socio-economic category of the parish. This information is then used as the basis for the apportionment of the Common Fund across the Diocese. However, this year we have taken the decision not to send out the Parish Share survey.

Due to the ongoing impacts of Covid, we recognise the difficulties in assessing your parish's position currently, in assessing regular worshipping communities, as congregation numbers are adversely affected by all numbers of factors caused by Covid restrictions, such as shielding and the closure of Church buildings, but also potentially boosted by increased numbers due to attendance at online services.

If the form were to go out in the usual way, we anticipate that parishes would have difficulty in completing the form consistently and we do not want to ask you to assess something that is really tricky to quantify at the current time. Using this form alone for the purpose of calculating next year's Parish Share calculation would not be a fair and equitable method.

However, if your PCC wishes to carry out the survey for your own records and ensure that the DBF is aware of any major changes, then we do not discourage you from doing so.

We shall be reviewing the position later in the year, during the budget setting process of the DBF, and looking at both historic and current factors affecting parishes and their communities when reviewing the level of the common fund and parish share apportionments for 2022.

If you have any questions about this, as always, do not hesitate to contact us, preferentially by email to parishshare@bathwells.anglican.org.

With my deepest thanks for everything you continue to do for your parishes.

S Kindleysides
Chief Executive Officer

www.bathandwells.org.uk