

## **Diocesan Conference**

### **DBF Budget 2024**

- In today's challenging economic climate, setting a budget not been an easy task.
- I am grateful to the support I have received from: -
  - The Venerable Paul Mackness
  - Mrs Hazel Evans
  - Mrs Nia Evans
  - Mr Ferguson Clemas-Howard
  - Mrs Jen Jackson
- The budget is still work in progress and is yet to be approved by the Executive.  
In fact we only finalised the latest iteration on Tuesday of this week \*(October Third.
- There are a number of factors we have to take into account, namely: -
  - Continue to support ministry across the Diocese
  - Support the approved 5% increase in Stipends
  - The reality of the cost of living crisis
  - The changed accounting requirements where we are now required to better provide in terms of Debtors for any outstanding Ministry Share contributions. In effect every uncontributed £1 of Ministry Share has an actual negative impact on Diocesan costs.
- So where are we?
- We have a total expenditure budget of £5.13 million which is an increase of 6% on 2023.
- At this stage and for the first time, we are proposing a Deficit budget i.e. income will not equal expenditure to the sum of £171K.
- We have budgeted for 85 stipendiary clergy.

- The reality is we may not get there.
- The deficit of £171K equates to roughly 4 stipends and on-costs.
- We are therefore proposing that we re-budget on a quarterly basis allowing us to have accurate and up to date clergy numbers.
- We have proposed an increase in Ministry Share taking it back to the level budgeted for in 2020 i.e. the last pre-Covid budget.
- We will publish Ministry Share expectations to churches and commit that it won't be higher than the published figure but if the re-budgeting allows, we will reduce Ministry Share as the year progresses.
- This also means that we can limit any potential future provision levels.
- I should also point out that we are injecting: -
  - £50K from Diocesan Investments which we budget for each year
  - £200K from Diocesan Investments. Once they are gone, they are gone.
  - £28K that we had set aside for Strategy and LMA development
- Next steps: -
  - Share with DBF Executive to get approval
  - Publish Ministry Share and appeal timeline
  - Re-budget on a quarterly basis.
- Thank you for your time.