

5th August 2020

OPEN LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF ST DAVIDS DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I am writing to let you know what further financial support will be available from the Diocesan Board of Finance 'DBF' for Local Ministry Areas and churches because of the Covid19 crisis.

As the crisis has unfolded we have seen the tragedies of such a pandemic which has left some of our communities reeling from the terrible human costs. In addition, the negative impact on our economy has been enormous and many of our congregations are suffering in human, spiritual and financial terms.

The primary purpose of the DBF is to support Bishop Joanna and her clergy in the delivery of Mission and Ministry. Over the past months the DBF has been monitoring what is taking place and identifying how we can continue to provide support which maintains the status quo and ensures a future for our LMAs and congregations.

The Board's Crisis Management Committee has met fortnightly and we were all thankful for the assistance for Quarter Two of the financial year, given by the Representative Body (the RB) of the Church in Wales, which as you know the Board agreed to pass on in full to our churches.

The RB has now adopted further assistance to dioceses for Quarter Three in the following terms:

- (i) *To provide the dioceses with the same level of financial support in Quarter Three that was provided in Quarter Two. Specifically, to absorb rather than recharge all stipend costs due in Quarter Three. This absorption is conditional upon:*
- *DBFs agreeing to forego payment of the Quarter Two block grant except for Parsonage Board Scheme contributions which will be paid to DBFs by bank transfer on 30 September 2020.*
 - *DBFs continuing to take active steps to encourage on-line giving and to close the gap between income and expenditure.*
 - *DBFs agreeing to take active steps to collect parish share during Quarter Three.*
- (ii) *To postpone any decisions as to Quarter Four subject to a meeting early in the autumn.*

The Board welcomed this assistance and I am pleased that yet again we are the only Diocesan Board which has chosen to pass on the RB package in full. As soon as the RB decides about Quarter Four I will let you know but must caution you all that the RB may not adopt the same approach for Quarter Four.

Continued.....

I ask that we all do what we can to reduce the negative effect of the crisis on our ability to maintain Mission and Ministry throughout the diocese and again I urge you to continue or resume giving as best you can to help your church and the Diocese meet the continuing cost of sustaining God's beneficial work among and by us.

I trust that the above information assists you in planning how your church will survive the crisis and that we can work together to pull through.

If you have any questions please contact the office by telephone or email and you will be referred to the appropriate responder.

I close by hoping that you all keep safe and well.

With best wishes

Nick Griffin

Chair of the St Davids Diocesan Board of Finance