

20th May 2021

To: **LMA TREASURERS
CHURCH TREASURERS
LMA DEANS
ARCHDEACONS**

Dear Colleague

2021 MINISTRY SHARE : Quarters 2 & 3 (Q.2 & Q.3)

I hope this letter finds you and your fellow Church members safe and well. The past year has presented incredible challenges on an individual, family, community and Church level. Indeed, many of us will never have imagined the horrors that this awful Pandemic has brought and the restrictions to our liberties that we have all had to endure.

As lockdown measures are eased and the vaccination programme continues it is starting to feel that we are, at last, emerging back into society and taking those initial tentative steps towards the new normal. Churches continue to re-open and hopefully more and more members will feel confident and safe enough to return.

Church closures have had a significant impact on many things, not least amongst their finances. We have been extremely fortunate to have received substantial support from the Representative Body of the Church in Wales (RB) but understandably this support could never be open ended. The RB's support has continued into 2021 but in Q.1 the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) asked Churches to cover the shortfall in Diocesan income which had previously been absorbed in full by the DBF. This meant that Churches were asked to contribute 19% of their usual Ministry Share contribution. In Quarter 2 the level of RB support is being reduced further, by some 50%, and is likely to be removed altogether in Quarter 3 and beyond. The reduction of support in Quarter 2 will still mean that your Church's Ministry Share contribution will be lower than previously requested. ***The Quarter 2 Ministry Share contribution will therefore be 59.37% of the normal figure and the attached Spreadsheet lists the actual Ministry Share for your Church.*** The St. Davids Diocese is the only Diocese in the Church in Wales to have passed on to its 308 Churches the full amount of the financial support that it received from the RB and withdrew from its Reserves to make up any funding deficit.

As the Representative Body's support will disappear in full in Quarter 3, I would urge those Churches who forecast that their Ministry Share for Quarter 3 and beyond will be a challenge, to make immediate contact with the Revd Jeff Thomas the Diocese Stewardship and Support Officer (jeffthomas@churchinwales.org.uk). Jeff will be delighted to discuss your Church's situation and hopefully help to arrive at a workable and sustainable solution.

I am conscious that some members may still feel unsure about returning to Church but would still like to make their usual contributions. **The Church in Wales Gift Direct scheme** would be a perfect solution for you and they can rest assured that any money donated via this means is paid directly and in full to your Church. Indeed the Church in Wales will also deal with and pass on to you any Gift Aid related payments. Please can I encourage you to take a look at the scheme via the Church in Wales web site at www.churchinwales.org.uk

Thank you for your continued support and all that you do and could I take this opportunity to wish you and your fellow Church members every blessing.

With very kind regards,



Nick Griffin
Chairman