

May 2017

To: Incumbents, Priests in Charge, Team Rectors, Team Vicars, PCC Treasurers and PCC Secretaries

Historic share arrears policy

With the advent of our new diocese of Leeds and the adoption of the new Parish Share formula for 2017 '*a new direction for a new diocese*' we now need to look to the future. It is paramount that we focus on paying our current Share requests in full and without the generosity of parishes in making such parish share payments, the diocese would cease to function effectively. Parish Share contributions go towards funding our clergy and lay staff to ensure that the mission of our churches is maintained and developed.

Looking forward, the Board has reviewed the Historic Share or outstanding share as at the 31 December 2016. This relates to underpayments of previous Parish Share assessments based on the three former dioceses formulae. It is recognised that in some cases 'arrears' can have a detrimental effect on the ongoing work of the parish.

The Board has therefore approved a Historic Share arrears policy, a 'Jubilee', which looks to the future rather than the past with the emphasis on current share collection and at the same time relieving the burden of past arrears. The Board thought long and hard in formulating this policy, as it did not want to appear to reward failure or refusal to pay and at the same time undervalue the efforts of those parishes that have risen to the challenge and paid share in full. As we are a new diocese with a new Share system, it was felt this was the ideal time to give parishes an opportunity to start again, to move forward without the burden of historic arrears, and to focus on the mission of their church.

The policy has set out two conditions both of which must be met for a parish to be eligible and qualify for Historic Share relief.

The first condition relates to the cash paid and is set out below:-

- If the parish pays their Parish Share in full for year 2017 i.e. by the 31st December 2017, it will be entitled to a 33% deduction of the arrears as at 31st December 2017.
- If a parish continues to pay in full for 2018 and 2019 then the remaining 67% will be written off for those years (at 33.3% per year)

This will mean that at the beginning of 2020 if a parish has met its share in full for the previous 3 years the whole arrears will be accounted for.

The second condition for a parish to receive full relief it has to undertake a stewardship campaign and review of their income generation to help keep the parish on a firm financial footing. The policy states they must contact a member of the Stewardship Development and Funding Team, based at Church House in Leeds, to seek their advice and assistance during 2017 -2019.

If you require further clarification on the Historic Share arrears policy please contact a member of the Finance team at Church House finance@leeds.anglican.org 0113 2000 540.

Yours sincerely,



Ashley Ellis
Joint Diocesan Secretary