DBF 23/11

ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD

14 October 2023

Diocesan Budget for 2024

INTRODUCTION

- The diocese is grateful to parishes and individuals in churches for their generous giving enabling the diocese to operate.
- We recognise pressures on parishes in terms of often reduced membership compared to pre-pandemic years, cost pressures (especially energy bills) and the pressures on generous donors within parishes.
- The diocese is its churches, schools, and chaplaincies; diocesan income is overwhelmingly from parish share contributions and is overwhelmingly returned to parishes through clergy stipends, housing etc.

CHALLENGES IN BUDGET SETTING

- Clergy stipends were held back nationally and locally during the pandemic and clergy have faced higher energy costs in parsonage houses.
- In 2023 parish share recovery has been below our budget and hope, but higher (and unplanned) vacancies in parishes means that we are likely to make a small common fund surplus this year.

KEY POINTS FOR 2024

- For 2024 we propose following national recommendations and making an increase in stipends (and staff salaries) of 5%.
- To fund this and other increased costs we plan an increase in parish share request of 1%.
- We assume that we will receive 92% of the requested parish share – and give thanks in advance to parishes and individuals contributing to this.
- Statistics on church membership are difficult to compare because of the pandemic, but we believe that the increase in requested parish share per member will be 5% - directly in line with the stipend and salary increase.

SUPPORT TO PARISHES

- The additional investment income generated from the Total Return policy will be contributing approximately £200k towards the Common Fund and an additional £500k towards investment in mission and net zero carbon grants for parishes.
- Parish grant schemes are in place and will be described at Synod.
- We are seeking strategic investment from the national church bodies to support further mission initiatives in parishes – primarily the Growing Younger and More Diverse programme.

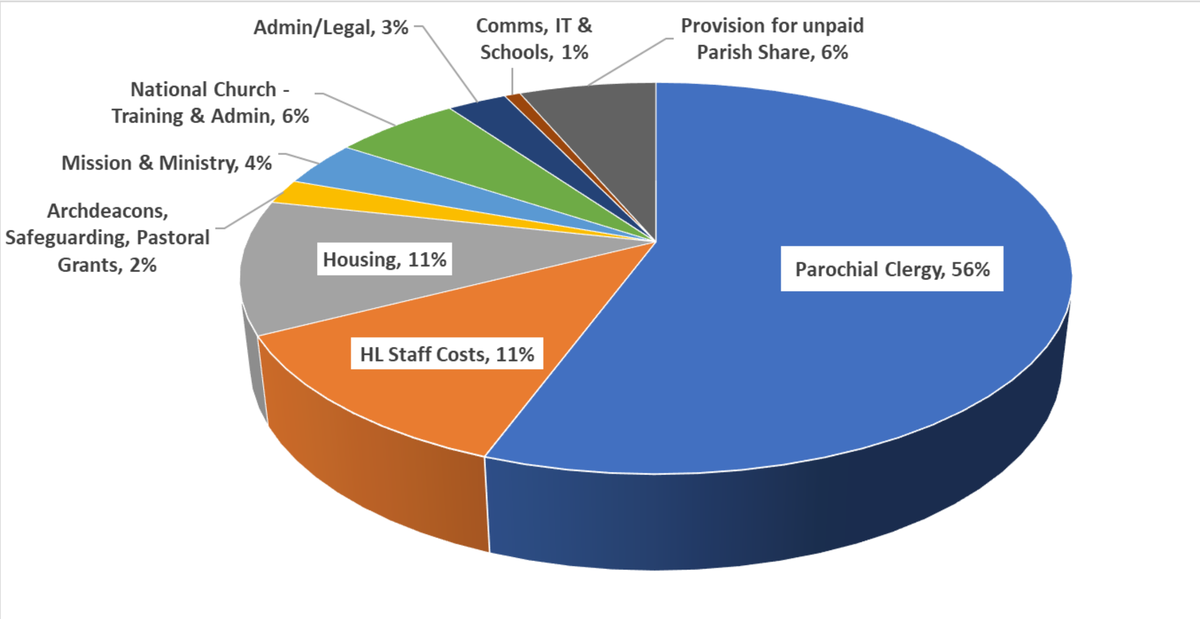
2024 DRAFT BUDGET

	Draft	Final
Expenditure	2024 Budget	2023 Budget
Parochial Clergy	9,296	9,147
HL Staff Costs	2,117	1,993
Estates & Glebe	2,377	2,100
Archdeacons, Safeguarding, Pastoral Grants	331	322
Mission & Ministry	612	634
National Church - Training & Admin	1,207	1,220
Admin/Legal	474	462
Comms, IT & Schools	125	125
Provision for unpaid Parish Share	1,164	1,071
Total Expenditure	**17,703**	**17,074**
Other Income & Grants	2024 Budget	2023 Budget
Fees	651	620
Total return on Investments	2,187	1,844
Grants & Donations	442	331
Parish Share Requested	14,423	14,280
Total Income	**17,703**	**17,074**

BUDGET HEADLINES

Increase in Stipends and Salaries	5.00%
Increase in non-staff costs	5.00%
Increase in parish share total	1.00%
Church Member Figure used for 2024 budget calculations	26,474
Church Member Figure used for 2023 budget calculations	27,559
Increase in parish share per church member	5.00%

2024 COMMON FUND DRAFT BUDGET - EXPENDITURE



2024 COMMON FUND DRAFT BUDGET - INCOME