DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS
Living God's Love

This letter has been sent to:
All Incumbents / parish clergy and copied to
PCC Secretaries/Administrators and Treasurers

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September 2026

Pastoral Aid Support Grants 2027

The DBF is very grateful for all that you do in your parishes and to all those who have been able to continue to pay their parish share in full, or to their maximum ability.

I am writing with details of the 2027 application process for Pastoral Aid Support Grants.

The DBF's Parish Shares and Support Committee has been disbanded, and instead the Parish Grants Committee will consider applications from parishes for Pastoral Aid Support Grants for 2027 at its meeting on 18 November.

The criteria for Pastoral Aid Support Grants, which were agreed in 2024 will continue. It is intended that these grants will:

- Be available to provide short-term support **only** to parishes where there has been an exceptional factor that has led to a temporary parish share shortfall.
- Not be used to maintain long term shortfalls, as these distort and confuse the consideration of long-term parish viability.

Pastoral Aid Support Grants awarded by the Committee will be subject to the parish concerned undertaking to pay the (net) parish share on a regular basis by either Standing Order or Direct Debit and the Committee will also expect that the Mission Statistics and Annual Finance Returns for the parish have been submitted.

There is a change this year in that applications for Pastoral Aid Support Grants now need to be submitted directly to the Committee (by email to grants@stalbansdiocese.org) on the standard form which can be downloaded from https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/managing-your-church/grants/pastoral-aid-support-grants/ ; Deanery approval is no longer required and instead the Archdeacons, the Diocesan Secretary and the Director of Finance will review applications received and make recommendations to the Parish Grants Committee for their consideration.

If you are considering making a Pastoral Aid Support Grant application, you are strongly advised to discuss this with your Archdeacon before submitting the application. Please note that the deadline for applications for 2027 is **Friday 23 October 2026**, to allow the Archdeacons time to meet and consider their recommendations prior to the November meeting of the Parish Grants Committee.

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In previous years we have also invited requests from parishes to 'write-off' parish share shortfalls which remained outstanding. This approach is being discontinued and therefore write off requests are no longer needed or appropriate. Archdeacons will continue to liaise with parishes and deaneries about levels of parish share payment.

The diocese also provides Mission Aided Support Grants. Since 2024 there has not been an application process for Mission Aided Support Grants: recommendations for these will be brought to the Parish Grants Committee by Archdeacons. Mission Aided Support Grants will only be available for:

- Parishes with long term difficulty in meeting parish share requests because of either significant economic deprivation or a very high incidence of other faiths within the parish. Mission Aided Support Grants for these parishes are likely to be permanent.

- Parishes with current difficulty in meeting parish share requests arising from a specific causal event and where there is thought to be a significant prospect of turnround to full parish share request payments over the medium term. Mission Aided Support Grants for these parishes are likely to be for a period of three to five years.

If your parish should fall into one of these categories your Archdeacon will contact you directly.

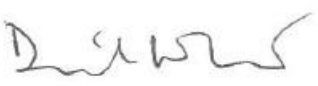
Parishes are also advised to consider whether it would be more appropriate to apply for one of the many other diocesan grants on offer, details of which, together with links to the application processes, are available on the website at: https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/managing-your-church/grants/.

In addition, the Revd Mark Rodel, Deputy Director of Mission and Ministry, and his team are very willing to offer non-financial assistance to parishes at any time.

A set of budget roundtable meetings have been arranged in September and October, details will be sent to treasurers and incumbents and I would encourage you all to attend one of these sessions if you are able.

Details of the provisional Parish Share figures for 2027 will be available on the Diocesan website from Friday 16 October 2026 at https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/managing-your-church/church-finance/parish-share-scheme/ .

Yours sincerely



David White
Diocesan Secretary