

DIOCESAN SYNOD DIGEST

This digest is produced to support the communication of information between Diocesan Synod, Deanery Synod and PCCs. Should you have any questions please contact Cathy Laird 01962 737307 or email cathy.laird@winchester.anglican.org .

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

DBE MEASURE

All diocesan synods are required to make a *Scheme* in accordance with the new *Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) Measure 2021* to designate an entity as the DBE for each diocese in accordance with legislation. The new DBE Measure must be operational for January 2023.

Currently the DBE is a joint unincorporated body working in partnership with the Diocese of Portsmouth. A joint working group across both diocese with representative from the DBFs and DBE worked through the options available and unanimously agreed that to comply with the new DBE Measure, the DBE should become a Joint Incorporated Body as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This proposal was recommended to Synod unanimously by Bishop's Council. Diocesan Synod approved the proposal unanimously.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Members were shown this introductory video and infographic:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OL1dnaOZkJU>

<https://www.winchester.anglican.org/news/2022/06/24/diocesan-synod-approves-2023-budget/>

Key points:

- Year ended with a £771,000 operating surplus despite a CMF collection shortfall of £900,000.
- The main reason for such a large surplus in 2021 was the high vacancy factor amongst our stipendiary clergy. We had budgeted for an average of 120 stipendiary clergy in post during 2021, in the end we had an average of only 103.
- This high vacancy rate was driven by 4 factors:
 - The decision to freeze all vacancies in 2020 meant we started the year with a very high number.
 - Due to most Dioceses suspending vacancies and clergy moves during 2020, by the middle of 2021, there were 18 months of 'normal' clergy moves that had built up.

- A higher percentage of clergy than we would normally expect, chose to take early retirement or move out of parish ministry – the result of people reassessing priorities during lockdowns.
- A few parishes remained vacant whilst pastoral schemes were processed and consulted upon.
- Linked to this, rental income from vacant clergy houses was nearly £270k above budget. In year savings within the Diocesan Office of around £720k (mainly arising from staff vacancies, and savings arising from events/projects being unable to happen due to lockdowns) assisted as well, along with some planned house sales achieving asking prices well above their book value.
- Most of these savings are unlikely to be repeated. It is a clear and urgent priority to ensure as many clergy vacancies are filled as fast as possible during 2022 to ensure that parish ministry can be properly supported and resourced.

2023 BUDGET

Diocesan Synod approved unanimously a one year budget for 2023, with a CMF collection rate of £9.375m (84% of total income).

Total Income (including 100% CMF collection):	£11,188,000
<i>Expected Shortfall in CMF</i>	<i>-£656,000</i>
Projected Income:	£10,532,000
Total Expenditure:	£11,188,000

The shortfall would need to be covered by reserves.

Further information about each area of expenditure can be found in the slide pack – [click here](#).

DEVELOPING THE 2024 – 2026 FINANCIAL PLAN

To allow time for appropriate consultation the development of the 3 year financial plan has been moved back by 1 year, with a standalone budget produced for 2023.

- The Diocese will host a number of budget roadshows around the diocese, seeking views and feedback from clergy, church officers and deaneries. This will help develop a three year financial plan for 2024-2026.
- As part of this work the Diocese will:
 - Conduct a full review of endowments and restricted funds.
 - Identify areas most in need of further investment.
 - Consider where expenditure can be reduced.
 - Apply for national funding where appropriate.