



QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS

Diocesan Synod March 2025

Each questioner is entitled to ask two supplementary questions at the meeting. These will all be recorded and shared with Synod members.

Alison Coulter, Winchester Deanery

1. To the Diocesan Secretary

How many PCCs in the diocese are placing limitations on how their Common Mission Fund contributions can be used, by withholding CMF, donating through the Ephesian Fund or similar third party, or through a special arrangement with the diocese, such that their contributions cannot be used to support all churches and clergy in the diocese? How much money is affected by these arrangements?

Response from the Diocesan Secretary:

Thank you for this question.

3 PCCs are currently giving some or all of their CMF contributions through the Ephesian Fund in response to the national discussions around LLF/PLF. None are using local or other third-party arrangements at this time.

Any funds given to us via the Ephesian Fund can only be spent on supporting parishes where, the Ephesian Fund believe, the PCC and/or minister would be able to support the Church of England Evangelical Council's (CEEC) statement of faith.

- The first PCC gives their entire CMF contribution through the Ephesian Fund.
- The next PCC give the majority of their CMF request direct to the WDBF but then give what they deem to be their 'net' contribution above their direct costs the DBF via the Ephesian fund.
- The last PCC gives most of their CMF direct and 30% through the Ephesian Fund to recognise the differing views on this matter within their PCC and wider congregation.

At present all these funds are reallocated between the ministry costs of those same three parishes. There is therefore no net financial impact on our shared diocesan funding. It is however causing more admin and additional emails each month for the Diocesan Secretary in liaising with the Team at the Ephesian Fund!