

DEANERY SYNOD 2 DECEMBER 2019

DBF met on 11th November

The big issues are: -

Continued pressure on parishes with cost of care to buildings and parish share

2020 parish share funding overall will increase 1.93% (stipends increase 2%), so costs are under control. Main issue is – can we afford the ministry as presently constituted?

Systemic issue is declining membership, so the costs are paid for by fewer people

On the other hand, we have quite a lot of historic land holdings (Glebe) and one or two of these are turning out to be quite valuable for housing and one, in particular which borders the M1 for distribution centres. Being Glebe, realisations are restricted in what they can be used for, but we are looking to invest wisely – e.g. buying houses to save rent (which helps the parish share). New Chairman, Andrew Brown from March 2020.

Cash from parishes is holding up, despite the pressures. Hoping for a break even result for 2019, but could be £100K either way. Our Deanery has paid £578K to end October against a years total of £722K – 80%, so not bad – only have 3 parishes that are significantly behind, and they will be reviewed in the new year.

Safeguarding – historic cases review. Returns in at end November – to be reported to central church.

LGL 2025 – the big Conversation – Rural Dean to cover later in the meeting. Really important to participate at every level, so the Bishop's vision and strategy for the 5 years to 2025 is set against the reality of parish life – there is no central delivery of strategy – it's in the parishes, schools and chaplaincies that the church of England operates.