



The Diocese of
Southwark

DIOCESAN SYNOD

SYNOD QUESTIONS NOTICE PAPER

Question 1

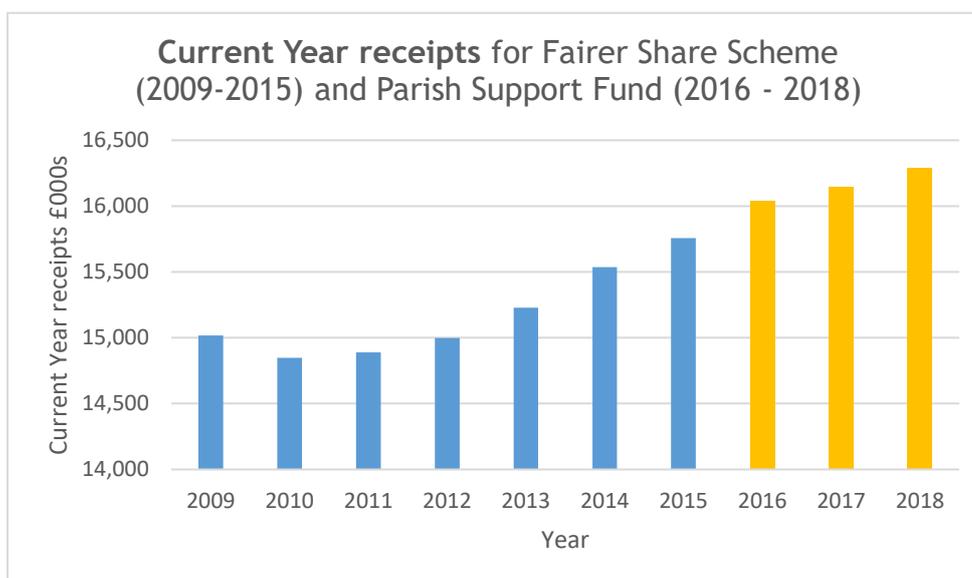
Q *Mr Neal Harvey (Merton Deanery)*

Could the Diocesan Secretary please advise on the outcome of the Parish Pledges for 2019. How does it compare to budget, and the previous 10 years of Parish Share/Pledge?

A *The Diocesan Secretary*

Parish pledges have increased each year since the Parish Support Fund (PSF) began with our 2016 pledges. 99.6% of pledges for 2019 were advised by the end of 2018 with over £16.4m pledged by 31 December 2018. This was another annual increase and consistent with our budget. This is our fourth year of receiving pledges for the Parish Support Fund. Other dioceses have experienced downturns in their 2nd or 3rd year. Bishop Christopher wrote to all parishes to thank them for their continued generosity and for their contribution to supporting the Southwark Vision for growth.

We received more money in 2018 for the year's pledges which was more than that received for 2017. The collection rate was over 99.4%.



Question 2

Q *Mr Neal Harvey (Merton Deanery)*

Could the Diocesan Secretary please confirm the correct procedure for the dissolution of a Deanery Synod Standing Committee?

A *The Diocesan Secretary*

There seems to be a misunderstanding as to the implications of the Deanery Advisory Group report for Deanery Synod Standing Committees. They are not being dissolved. Each Deanery Synod is required to have a Standing Committee by reason of Section 28 (1) (e) of the Church Representation Rules 2017 and Standing Committees are governed by the Model Rules approved by Diocesan Synod on 5 July 2017 - Rules 15 - 19. How each Synod applies these Rules is very much up to them.

Paragraph 20 of the DAG report contains the following: The Deanery Leadership Teams (DLT) would be established under Rule 19 of the Model Rules and would also serve as the Standing Committee of the Deanery Synod: Rules (15-18). The Standing Committee is not dissolved, rather becomes a new body, a Deanery Leadership Team, focussed on mission and the Southwark Vision.

Bishop Christopher has made it clear that mission activities in Deaneries should not be constrained by synodical structures and processes, but rather that we should all look to create space for the Holy Spirit to stir us with imagination and creativity towards the task of mission in our areas.

Each Deanery needs to decide whether to continue with the current Deanery Standing Committee or, as recommended by Diocesan Synod, to integrate them as part of a Deanery Leadership Team. In establishing its Deanery Leadership Team, each Deanery Synod has a clear choice - either to keep the Standing Committee separate or to incorporate it into the DLT. The choice will be based on whatever it thinks will work best for the mission of the Synod and the Deanery.

Deanery Synod Standing Committees are, therefore, not being dissolved but being encouraged to become part of the recommended DLT which is focussed on mission and Southwark Vision.

Question 3

Q *Capt Nicholas Lebey (Plumstead Deanery)*

Estates Evangelism

With reference to the debate at the February 2019 Group of Sessions sponsored by the Estates Evangelism Task Group - GS 2122 -

- i) How many estates are there in the Diocese with more than 500 social housing homes in management?
- ii) Of these, how many contain a worshipping community with (a) a full-time or (b) a part-time stipendiary minister?
- iii) How many more estates described in (i) are known to be planned for the Diocese
- iv) What plans are there to ensure that there is a 'loving, worshipping, serving Christian community on every social housing estate' in the Diocese?"

A *The Diocesan Secretary*

Parishes are often made up of a number of social housing estates under management. Figures are currently not held by the diocese but it would be useful data to seek and find.

Diverse approaches are being taken to support and resource estates ministry, through training events, 'Sowing in Concrete' - Signs of Hope Ministering in our Estates, (21/03/19), 'Welcome to the Neighbourhood- Connecting with New Housing' (11/05/19), grants, and the on-going deployment of lay and ordained leadership to areas of greatest deprivation. 'Loving, worshipping, serving Christian communities on every social housing estate' will develop over time as Fresh Expressions of Church grow from the multiplication of indigenous communities of worshippers.

There are also plans to invest resources through Strategic Development Projects of the Diocese.

Question 4

Q *Capt Nicholas Lebey (Plumstead Deanery)*

Encouraging Youth Evangelism

With reference to the debate at the February 2019 Group of Sessions on 'Encouraging Youth Evangelism' - GS 2124 -

- i) How many worshipping congregations in the Diocese contain more than 25 children & young people?
- ii) How many worshipping congregations in the Diocese employ a youth worker/minister either (a) full-time or (b) part-time?
- iii) How many deaneries have youth worker/minister working for them (other than in ii) above)?

[For the purposes of clarification of this Question, the phrase 'worshipping congregations' does not include those in or with Schools. These were the subject of another debate at Synod - 'Growing Faith' - GS 2121.]”

A *The Diocesan Secretary*

Data from the 2018 Statistics for Mission submissions is still being inputted by parishes and is not fully complete. However, from the data that has been provided so far:

45% of our worshipping communities have 25 or more children & young people.

51% of congregations have some form of youth provision for 11-17 year olds with 21% having a paid youth worker or minister that is working with their youth.

The National Church questions do not indicate if the paid youth worker or minister is on a full or part-time basis or if they are shared across congregations or wider deaneries and so we are, therefore, unable to provide this further information.

Data on deaneries' own provision is also currently not collected and we are, therefore, not able to provide it at this time.