



Participation between parishes and the Diocese¹

The Archdeacons and Diocesan Secretary have agreed that in order to help decision making, we should set out a level of participation and collaborative working expected between parishes and the Diocese. This has been endorsed by Bishop Christopher, the Policy & Finance Committee and the senior staff team, and is to be used in discussion with parishes when considering:

- **Diocesan Loans**
- **Participation in DIP and other funding bids**
- **Eligibility for curates**
- **Parish self-funded ministry posts**
- **DBF Grants or other financial assistance (e.g. Marshalls, etc.)**

This policy is not about theological conviction, which is always respected across a broad spectrum in the Diocese of Southwark, it is about participation in the corporate life of the Diocese. There is a clear expectation that we should speak well of each other notwithstanding differences of conviction held in good faith.’

Where parishes and the Diocese are working effectively together and participating in the shared life of the Diocese, this will be a fruitful sharing in our common life together. The Diocese will provide the necessary safeguarding support and training, financial oversight and governance that are required for the operation of the Diocese. In parishes, this fruitfulness will be demonstrated by willing participation in the following ways:

Evidence of participation		
	Demonstrated (yes/no)	Notes
Completion of mandatory safeguarding training for church officers and compliance with all PCC safeguarding responsibilities.		
Engagement in in MAP process.		
Stats for Mission (attendance) returns completed online: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for at least the last three years • by 31 January. 		
Articles of Enquiry submitted by time of inspection.		

¹ Derived from and replacing “In Good Standing.”

Annual Parish Return (known as the Parish Information Review) completed within time		
Finance returns completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for at least the last three years • by 31 May for previous year. 		
Annual accounts submitted to Charity Commission (by 31 October if applicable) and Diocesan office by 31 May for previous year.		
Parochial fees submitted (including nil returns) and up to date by 31 January for previous year.		
Electoral Roll data submitted on time		
PSF pledge payments up to date		
Acceptable PSF pledge for the last three years and promises for the next three years (as agreed by Archdeacon)		
Positive engagement with MDR process		
Participation in IME process where appropriate		
Ordination of deacons by the Diocesan Bishop		