



Treasurers' Newsletter

Diocese of Gloucester

August 2007

Third Quarter Newsletter - 2007

Dear Colleague,

Thank you all for your patience during the floods, when due to health and safety issues the Diocesan Offices were forced to be closed. Thank you also to those Treasurers who were able to attend the recent workshops. I hope that they were as useful to you as they were to us. Details of the rescheduled Church House workshops can be found below.

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank all the parishes who have worked so hard this year with their parish share contributions. It is now the second year of Mutual Support and I'm pleased to report that virtually all of parishes are going to be able to meet or exceed their commitment for the year, and that Deaneries are helping those which are currently struggling. Many of you will know that the Diocese still needs a higher overall commitment from parishes as it is still looking at a deficit of around £500k for the year. Details of next years budget and clergy costs are currently being circulated amongst Deaneries, and now is the time for your PCC to sit down and discuss what it can afford in the coming year.

We realise many benefices won't be able to meet their cost allocations, but we would ask that all give as fully as possible to support the ministry in the Diocese (please see the final page of this newsletter for the provisional cost estimates for 2008)

If you have any questions or problems that we can help with, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Matt Brunt

Diocesan Management Accountant

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Treasurer Questionnaire

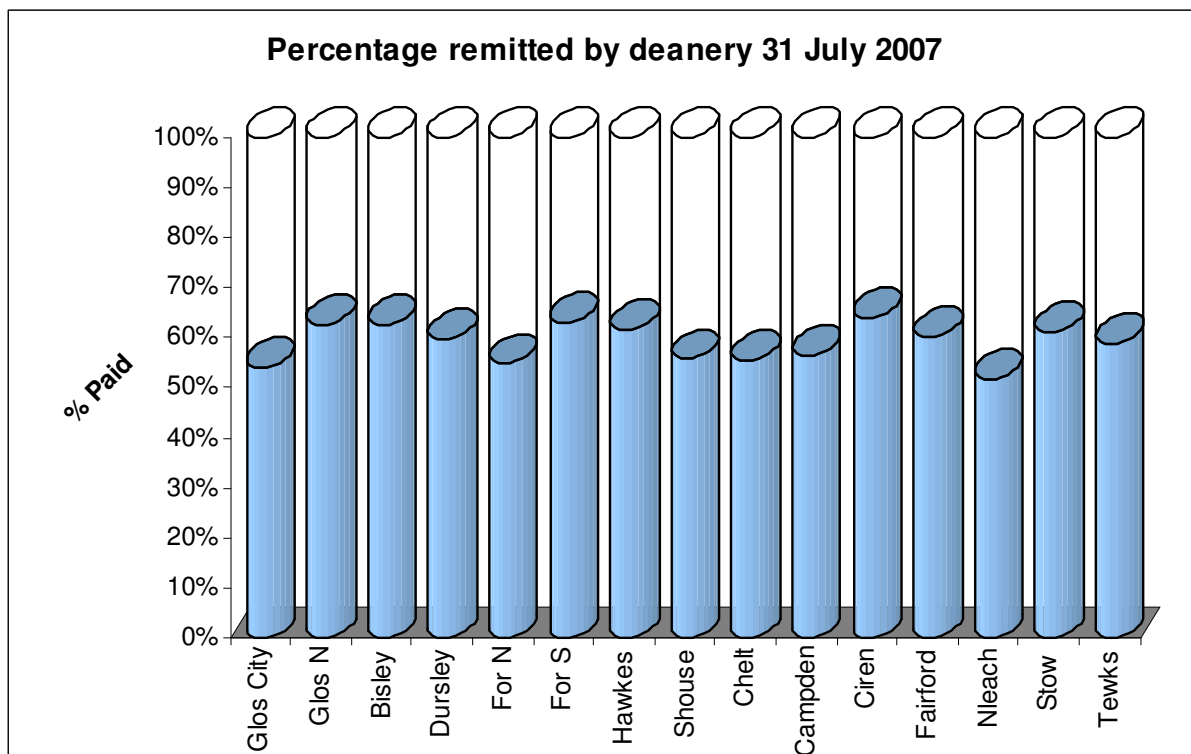
The Diocese is always looking at ways of cutting down on postage costs & the Finance Department have started by introducing the method of sending out Parish Statements via e-mail. We want to expand on this and we are looking at ways we can receive fees remittances & payments via e-mail & bank accounts. Please could you fill out the attached questionnaire and return it to Jess Ahern, in Finance (jahern@glosdioc.org.uk) so that we can look into it further

If you require another form please contact Jess and she will have a copy sent out to you.

Parish Share 2007

The Diocese had a shortfall of 5.70% at the end of July, compared with a shortfall of 5.83% at the same point in 2006. Only three Deaneries contributed less than half their allocation for the year (at the time of writing, every Deanery had contributed more than 50%), and most are on track to be near the next target of 75% by the end of September. Despite the closeness of this months shortfall percentage compared to last years, I am more encouraged this year as there is a greater consistency to the contributions, both from month to month and between parishes.

Once again I would like to ask that even if you are struggling to make contributions, please keep the Diocese informed of your situation. We are here to help you all, and are able to come and see individual parishes to discuss possible ways forward. I would also like to say thank you to all of you who are paying regularly, as it makes the Diocesan cashflow so much easier to control.



Diocesan Website

Last newsletter I informed you that the Diocesan website would be up and running by the end of July. Unfortunately, due to floods amongst other things, this has again been delayed. We are hoping to have the website ready sometime in September.

If you would like to be told when it is ready, please email me and I will let you know as soon as it is completed.

Treasurers' Workshop

Thank you to the Treasurers who were able to make the Glenfall House and Viney Hill workshops, and apologies to those who were hoping to make the Church House one but were unable to do so because of the flooding.

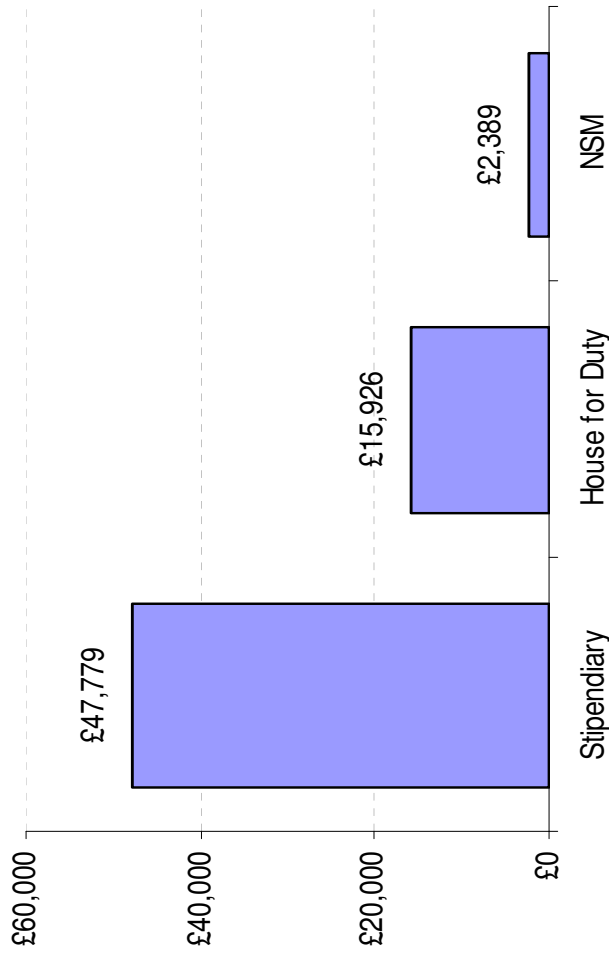
The two workshops we were able to hold were a great success, and I know that the Finance team really enjoyed putting a few names to faces. Because of the success of these workshops, we are planning to hold them more regularly, and to do individual workshops on specific subjects as they come up.

We are now planning a new Church House workshop on the 20th September starting at 7pm in the Committee Room of Church House. This will be to make up for the one which was cancelled in July, and will follow the same format as the previous two. This workshop is designed specifically for new Treasurers, although everyone is welcome to come along and meet the team, and to ask any questions that may have come up during their time as Treasurer.

We are also planning two workshops for the Diocesan Cashbook. One will be targeted at new Treasurer's who are interested in using the Cashbook, whilst the second one will be for those Treasurer's who already use the Cashbook and have specific questions relating to its usability, or who are interested in upgrading to the next version of the Cashbook for 2008. These workshops are due to be held sometime in November (TBC).

If you are interested in coming along for any of the above workshops, please contact the Finance department, and further details will be sent out to you.

Provisional Cost Estimates for 2008



The budget proposed to Synod on the 8th September is giving the cost allocation per cleric above (this is based on budget and may be subject to change depending on the outcome of the Synod meeting)

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