



Treasurers' Newsletter

Diocese of Gloucester

November 2007

Fourth Quarter Newsletter - 2007

Dear Colleague,

With the year coming to a close, now is the time to reflect and learn from the current finances of both PCCs and the Diocese, whilst driving hard to meet or exceed the year's budget before the end of December. Christmas and the surrounding weeks tend to be a good time of collections for parishes, as many people visit the Church who wouldn't normally during the rest of the year. Make sure you have plenty of gift aid envelopes for these additional collections, to get the maximum return for this period.

Diocesan finances have taken a battering this year. As most of you will know, our Parish Share commitments for the year caused us to have a starting deficit of £600k. We have also faced strong pressure on budgeted expenditure, especially in Housing works and ordination costs. We are extremely grateful to all parishes who have responded generously with over-payments on their parish share contributions and please be assured that the DBF is working hard to minimise budget overspends.

Thank you for all your hard work this year. Being a PCC Treasurer can be tiring and feel unrewarding, but the DBF truly appreciates all that you do for Church, Parish and Diocese.

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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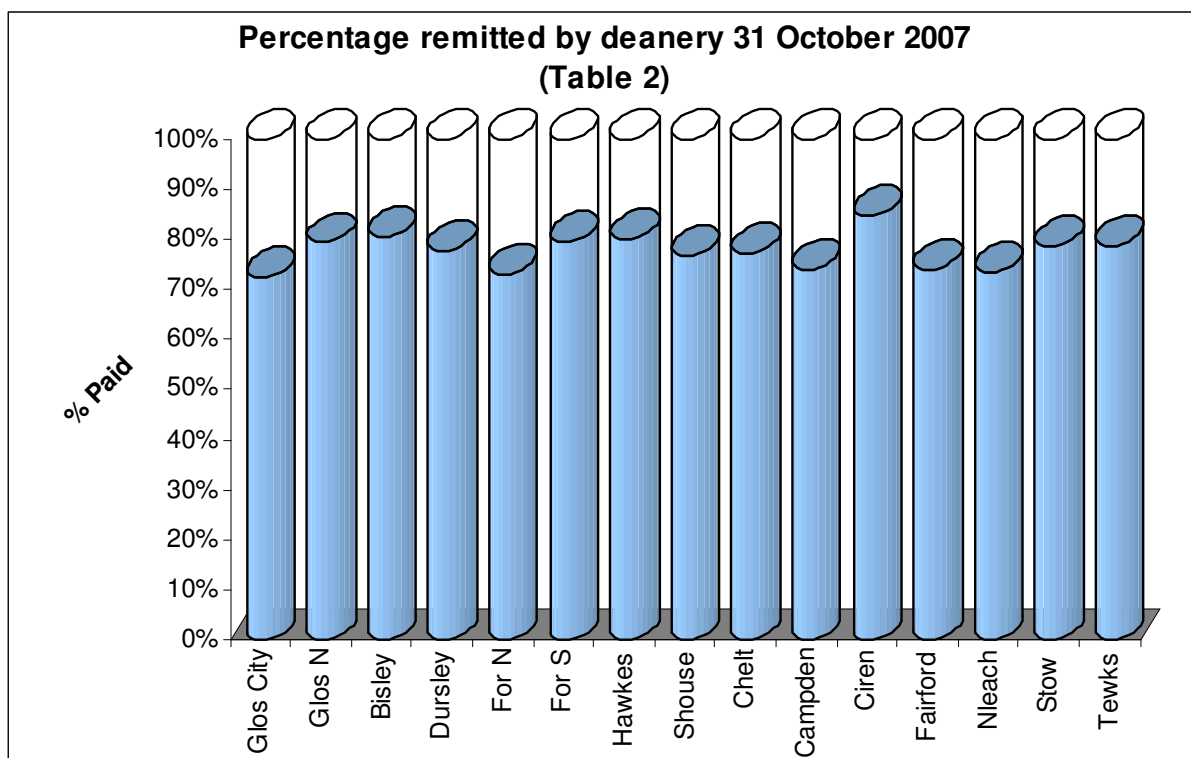
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Parish Share 2007

The Diocese had a shortfall of 5.84% at the end of October, compared with a shortfall of 5.93% at the same point in 2006. It's interesting that the majority of Deaneries have reached a giving level that I would have expected in September. This means that the statistics are effectively one month behind themselves, which can be put down to the slow start in January. We were expecting Deaneries to submit their Parish allocations by the beginning of this month, ready to have the Direct Debits and Standing Orders set up to start in January.

Parishes who currently have Standing Orders or Direct Debits set up will be told about their new amounts as soon as possible after we receive the full allocations. If you would like to start a Direct Debit, please contact Jessica Ahern and she will guide you through the process. This is the easiest and most efficient way of making regular contributions to the Diocese. We are happy for the amount collected to suit your needs, and so if 1/12th of your PCC's Parish Share a month is too high, a more suitable amount can be arranged, with top-ups to suit your Parish's Cashflow.



Diocesan Website

The new website, after some technical trouble, is now due to be launched on the week beginning the 19th November. Certain parts of the website are still being populated, but by the end of this year all forms which you may need as Treasurer, will be available to download. One part which will be available is the Parish Share statistics page. This will be updated on a monthly basis, but may move to a weekly basis as we become familiar with the technology.

In the meantime, if you are unable to find the information you require on the website, please contact the Finance department and we will be happy to forward the forms to you.

Climate Change Levy

We have had several communications recently from Treasurers about the VAT they have been paying for their Church's fuel. The following extract comes from the November 2000 newsletter of the Churches Main Committee (CMC):

“The Climate Change Levy, as the new energy tax is now called, will come into effect on 1st April 2001. It will not be applied to non-business use by charities. This means that if VAT is levied on a church's supply of fuel and power at the reduced rate of 5%, the supply will not be subject to the Levy; but if, on account of business use, it is subject to the standard rate of 17.5% it will be subject also to the Levy. The Levy will apply to the following fuel sources: electricity, coal, lignite, coke, semi-coke, petcoke and natural and liquefied petroleum gas. Customs have set up a CCL helpline which can be contacted by telephoning 0161-827 0332.”

Please check this against your fuel bills to make sure you are not paying CCL in error.

Gift Aid Envelops

Gift Aid Envelops can be purchased from the Finance Department for £2.50 per 50. Please contact Jessica Ahern if you would like to place an order.

Table of Parochial Fees 2008

The Table of Parochial Fees as prepared by the Archbishops' Council under the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986, has now been confirmed by Parliament and authorised by the Parochial Fees Order 2007. The official Table is currently being published by the Archbishops' Council and will be sent to your incumbent or priest in December. For those Parishes in interregnum, we will endeavour to send you some forms once we receive them.

If you are still awaiting copies for your parish by mid-January, and your incumbent or priest has not received any, please contact us and we will arrange for some to be sent out to you. In the meantime I have attached a copy of our FIN012 form with the correct statutory fees applied for you to use.

Changes to the Return of Parish Finance

The Archbishops' Council have changed the Return of Parish Finance so that it corresponds with the new SORP 2005 accounting changes. Most of the form is the same as the previous ones, but with boxes moved around, but there are one or two additional boxes which they now require.

For those of you which use the Diocesan Cashbook, this means that the automatically populated Finance Return is no longer valid. I have updated the Cashbook to correspond with these changes, and I am happy to send you a copy either on CD or by email. Because the rest of the Cashbook will not change, it is simple enough to copy and paste your transactions into the new version. Other than this change by the Archbishops' Council, the Cashbook still retains its full functionality, and it is still possible to fill in the form which you will receive in the first quarter of 2008 from the data produced.

If you have any questions regarding the new Finance return, and are unsure about how to populate it from your own records, please contact me and I will be happy to assist you.

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