



All PCC/DCC Treasurers

15 May 2020

Dear Colleagues

Letter to PCC/DCC Treasurers

This letter has been sent in support of the video message recorded by Bishop Robert this week, expressing his heartfelt thanks for the generosity of the people in our worshipping communities and also for the hard work of treasurers, it really is appreciated. The Bishop's message can be viewed on You Tube by clicking the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLiLhf6Rlo>

In the video Bishop Robert mentions that we are here to help, so do please contact us if you have any questions, or want any information.

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Bishop Robert talks about the success of the Parish Giving Scheme and how it is enabling so many of our parishes to receive such valuable donations at this time. We already have 226 parishes signed up, with 2,800 individual donors, giving £225,000

per month (with gift aid) to their parishes. If you are not already signed up, it really is worth considering doing so.

We really do understand the pressure that all parishes are facing with the church building and halls currently being closed, especially those of you that rely on cash collections and fund raising to balance the books each year. My church had a finance meeting last week to review all of its finances and to look at what is happening with giving, etc. – these are certainly challenging times. I have been asked about how we should be viewing our reserves at this time? My answer is that reserves are intended for a rainy day and it is certainly raining very hard at the moment.

In order to try to get a better idea of the real impact on local parish finance from across the diocese, I will be writing to all treasurers in early June requesting information for the first six months of 2020 and comparative figures for 2019. This will then help us to formulate a plan for how we can then provide better targeted support to parishes. Please be assured that this is on our radar.

At this time of year we usually ask parishes to provide as with the latest participant numbers, ready for the 2021 Common Fund request. Again I will set out how we propose to do this for 2020 when I write in June, as 2021 will clearly not be a normal year.

We are hoping in the coming weeks to set-up an opportunity for treasurers to join us in an on-line conversation (via Zoom), so that we can share information and people can ask questions. If you don't have internet access, please don't worry, as we will share all information with everyone after the events.

It has been really encouraging to receive so many wonderful messages of support at this time and to hear about some of the really creative fundraising ideas that people have been coming up with – my personal favourite being from the treasurer who was looking to be sponsored to not sing loudly and out of tune when we all return to our church buildings!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Williams". The script is cursive and fluid.

Neil Williams
Director of Finance