Clergy stipends in 2021/22

Background

When the draft 2021 budget was presented to Synod in October 2020 there was a 1.9% Parish Share increase proposed and agreed. This increase was to enable an assumed 2% increase in clergy stipends from 1 April 2021.

Since then we have increased Parish Share by 1.9%, although rebated the cash increase back to deaneries so that Parish Share can be held to 2020 levels.

Since then we have also been notified by the national church that there is no planned stipend increase in 2021. We have checked with neighbouring dioceses and they are all planning to hold to this stipend freeze.

So we are in a position of having increased Parish Share to cover off an increase that is not now being recommended.

Within this we need to recognise the need to continue to support our clergy along with the need to ensure that the DBF is not the accidental beneficiary of any changes to previous assumptions.

Proposed way forward

In the light of the above the proposal is:

1. To increase stipends in the diocese by 1% from April 2021 - this is because for reasons of historical anomalies the stipend in the Diocese of Liverpool is slightly lower than that of neighbouring dioceses. The proposed increase resolves that issue.
2. To transfer the amount saved in the DBF budget to the 2021 Clergy Housing budget. The 2021 Clergy Housing budget would therefore increase by c. £50,000.
3. To ensure that the DBF budget for 2022 restores the balance between Parish Share and clergy stipend levels. In reality this means that any proposed Parish Share increase for 2022 is likely to be c. 1% less than any proposed increase in clergy stipends.

Synod is invited to agree this approach to clergy stipends in 2021 and the corresponding impacts on the DBF budget.