**Financial Statement by the Archdeacon of Macclesfield**

The 2017 accounts for the three parishes of St Luke Brinnington, St Mary Stockport and St Thomas Stockport are available to view separately with the vacancy documents.

From 1st January 2019 the total Parish Share for the three churches will be £43983

It is worth noting that the parish share calculation in the Diocese of Chester is based on the cost of parochial ministry and calculated using the number of clergy in a parish with a socio economic multiplier applied to the calculation. You can find the detail of how parish share is calculated here <https://www.chester.anglican.org/support-services/finance/parish-share-/>

There has been agreement that the three churches will bring their individual accounts together into one account for the new benefice and a Treasurer has been agreed who will oversee the establishment of financial protocols with support from the Diocesan Finance Department. Legal recognition of the parish took place on 1st January 2019 and the way is now clear to establish a new benefice account. It is anticipated that the process of opening a new account may take up to three months. Therefore, until the new account is working, each separate Church will continue to run their accounts to receive gifts and pay local bills – but always with an eye to the wider group responsibility.

The parish share for the new benefice will initially be paid from the account of St Thomas Stockport and the other two churches will make their contribution into that account until the new parish account, to be known as ‘Stockport and Brinnington account’, is operational.

Currently the Churches are paying – Brinnington £9000, St Mary’s £18000 and St Thomas £17000.

The new total parish share will be £43983 from 1st January 2019 with Brinnington paying £7477, St Mary’s £21992 and St Thomas £14514

This will initially be divided 1/6 Brinnington, 2/6 St Thomas and 3/6 St Mary’s. It should be noted this is simply a figure that has been agreed with the PCC’s and is not related to the Diocesan formula. It does mean that each Church will be paying less than their current assessment but not necessarily less than what they currently pay (note St Mary’s). Each Church will struggle initially to cover the costs of ministry but St Mary’s in particular will probably not make that initial target. Once the new account is operational the division of parish share will become irrelevant and the total parish share will be the responsibility of the whole parish. The Diocese recognises that the new parish might not make its full parish share target in the first year.

There is currently significant income for St Mary’s from letting the old St Andrews Church and for St Thomas from the let of their Curate’s house. This income will also come into the main account as soon as possible.

It is anticipated that the new PCC Standing Committee (when elected) will also function as the Finance Committee and that some financial agreement will be needed to give delegated authority to each Church to cover the usual expenses of ministry in each Church. There will also need to be a local financial rep who will bank collections, pay small bills and generally keep an eye on expenses locally as a support to the new overall parish Treasurer. Volunteers have already been identified to carry out this role.

The parishes are committed to covering all usual expenses of ministry and this will again initially be managed through the St Thomas account and expenses should be claimed in the usual professional ways with clear receipts and petrol claimed at 45p per mile for the first 10000 miles and then 20p per mile beyond that. The standard Diocesan claim form can be found here <http://www.chester.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/1512991659.pdf>

There is general recognition that the first few months of working together may well have some messy edges but there is a real commitment to collaborative working and much goodwill to make this work.



Venerable Ian Bishop

Archdeacon of Macclesfield