

## A thank you from the diocese

As you all know, the parish share is crucial for funding our mission and ministry in Sussex. It pays for the stipends, national insurance and pensions of our parish clergy; it pays for repairs and maintenance to their houses; it pays for training new clergy to succeed the current ones as they retire; it pays for removal and resettlement grants for clergy moving into new posts; it pays for archdeacons and rural deans to offer support and guidance; and it contributes to the costs of providing services to parishes from Church House, Hove as well as central administration both in Hove and within the national church. All these help to enable the preaching of the gospel across Sussex and the many acts of love and service which the recent survey about planning for the future showed so many of you are part of.

In an annual miracle, parishes give over £14 million towards the £19 million cost of providing clergy, houses and services. But I would also like to add a special thank you to all the many people and parishes who give so generously. A wonderful 333 of 357 parishes met their pledge in full in 2018 or even exceeded it, and we owe you all a great debt of gratitude. We also give thanks for the payments made towards their pledge by parishes who were unable to meet their pledge in full due to difficulties experienced during the year but who gave as much as they could.

We have also been greatly encouraged by the pledges for 2019 and the way in which, despite difficult circumstances, so many parishes have continued to give sacrificially and have pledged a significantly larger proportion of their Parish Ministry Costs. We are particularly grateful to all those parishes who pledge in excess of their own Parish Ministry Costs to help support those in more deprived circumstances and we are delighted to see that support to our household of faith across the diocese growing.

Thank you.

Gabrielle Higgins

Diocesan Secretary