



CRITERIA FOR THE ADJUSTMENT OF ARREARS OF MINISTRY SHARE

Currently the only provision the Board has in place to assist with the arrears of Ministry Share relates to the Ministry Share in the year in which a church becomes redundant. The provision states:

‘That when a church is declared redundant, the Ministry Share attributable to that church for the quarters following the quarter in which the church is declared redundant, will be paid by the Board provided there are no other funds within the Parish to meet this debt.’

There is no provision currently to address an arrears of Ministry Share which can be proved to be attributable the church which had decided to close. In the past any arrears remained the responsibility of the remaining churches/parishes in the Benefice. If the status quo was to continue in the current economic climate, the Board could see a ‘domino’ effect of further church closures as a result of their being asked to meet this additional financial burden. It would also hinder decisions being made in respect of closures as other churches in the Benefice would be reluctant to see a church close if they were expected to take on this additional expenditure.

The Executive Committee, has agreed that an adjustment can be made to the arrears of Ministry Share where the arrears can be attributed to a church which has closed or had decided to close, but there would need to be a procedure and criteria agreed to facilitate this. It was agreed that the Ministry Share Sub Committee would discuss this and bring a document to Executive Committee for its consideration and approval.

It was further agreed that any adjustment agreed in respect of arrears of Ministry Share would be actioned against the Unpaid Ministry Share Provision – currently £100,000. This would inevitably lead to an increase in the Unpaid Ministry Share Provision being enacted in the accounts.

Criteria

1. The PCC should have passed a resolution to close and make the church redundant.
2. Notice of the closure should be advised by 31st August (last effective date before allocation of following year’s Ministry Share).
3. The arrears of Ministry Share must be able to be attributed to the church concerned in accordance with the Diocesan formula.
4. There must be no other funds available to meet the arrears of Ministry Share.

Procedure

1. The relevant Archdeacon will advise the Diocesan Secretary that the church is to close and together they will review the situation regarding arrears of Ministry Share.
2. The financial situation of the Parish will be reviewed to ascertain what monies, if any, are available to meet any arrears of Ministry Share. (There should not be any evidence that monies have been transferred to other Parishes in the Benefice to avoid their being used to meet the arrears of Ministry Share).

3. The Benefice will provide details of the allocation of Ministry Share and the formula used in the allocation for the Benefice for the years requested together with the Parish accounts for the three preceding years.
4. The Diocesan Office will check this allocation against the monies received to confirm what proportion of the arrears is attributable to the church in question (Diocesan formula for the allocation of Ministry Share should be used).
5. Once the amount of arrears attributable to the church is ascertained and confirmed, the Appeals Tribunal will authorise what adjustment, if any, will be made in respect of the arrears of Ministry Share.

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