

PARISH SHARE AGREEMENTS – EPISCOPAL AREA BRIEFING

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Background
- Proposal
- Benefits
- Practicalities
- Support Available
- Q&A

Background



What Makes a Difference?

In 2024 the National Church Giving Team released a report called 'Parish Share: What Makes a Difference?'. The report recommended dioceses:

- 1. Create a Project Team** – the LDBF already had an informal project team but this has been formalised.
- 2. Take a Multi-year Approach** – this was particularly with regards to communications and focused on consistency of messaging.
- 3. Have a Communication Plan** – a clear timetable for Parish Share communications is in place.
- 4. Hold Face-to-Face Events** – focused on increasing engagement between dioceses and PCCs. This is an area we felt there was room for improvement.



Diocesan Finances

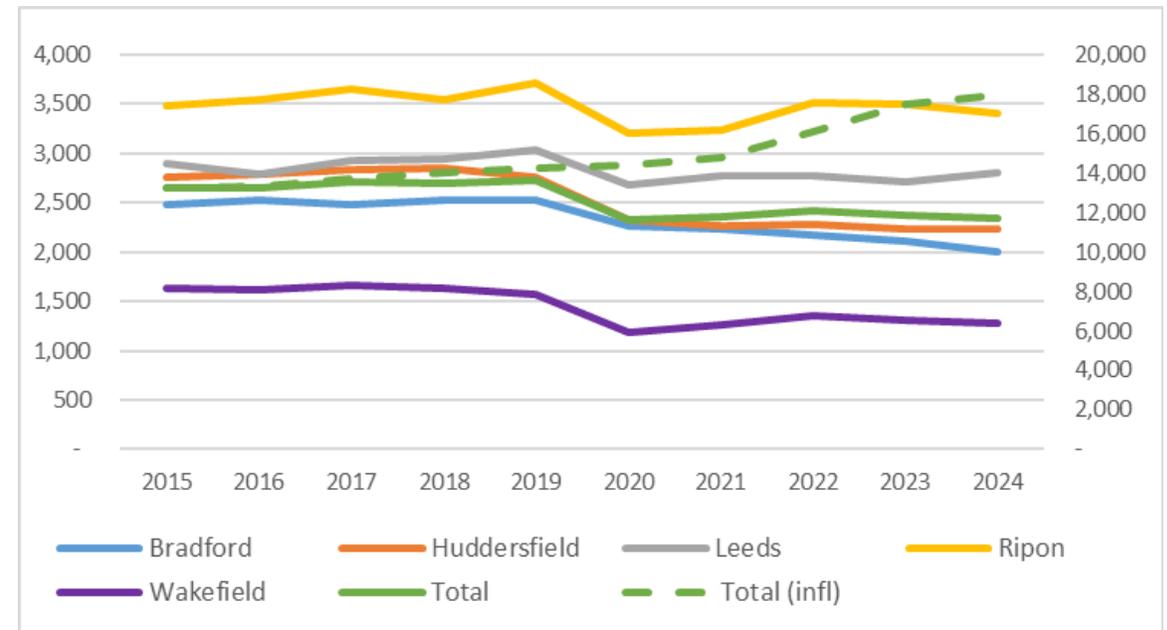
Currently the LDBF's annual underlying operating deficit is c.£2m. Therefore, the following are currently ongoing to address this:

- **Diocesan Finance Review** – national review of Diocesan funding. Outcome due to be presented to July General Synod.
- **Strategic Investment** – Barnabas and other strategic programmes should in the long-term support parish missional and financial strength.
- **Property Development** – ongoing work to maximise development opportunities from our land and buildings.
- **Cost Control** – significant work already undertaken in this area. Further work ongoing in relation to major Property spend in 2025.
- **Parish Share Agreements** – the process being discussed.

Parish Context - Parish Share

- Post Covid-19 and the high inflation levels of 2022-23, parish finances have been under increased pressure.
- This can be seen by the level of Parish Share contributions.
- Total Parish Share peaked in 2019 at £13.6m before falling in 2020 due to Covid-19. In 2024 contributions were £11.7m.
- Had share kept pace with inflation it would now be £18.0m.

Parish Share by Area (£)



Proposal

- Reflecting on the challenges faced, the National recommendations and building on learnings from other dioceses; the LDBF Board has agreed a process of creating three-year PSAs with every parish in the Diocese.
- What this means:
 - A face-to-face meeting will be held with every Parish on a rolling three-year basis – c.150 parishes per year.
 - It will enable diocesan officers to fully understand the local context and agree a reasonable share request for a three-year period.
 - The existing share formula would be the benchmark for discussions.
 - The PSA process will commence in autumn 2025 but all parishes will receive a three-year request by the end of October 2025 covering the years 2026-28.

Benefits of PSA Meetings

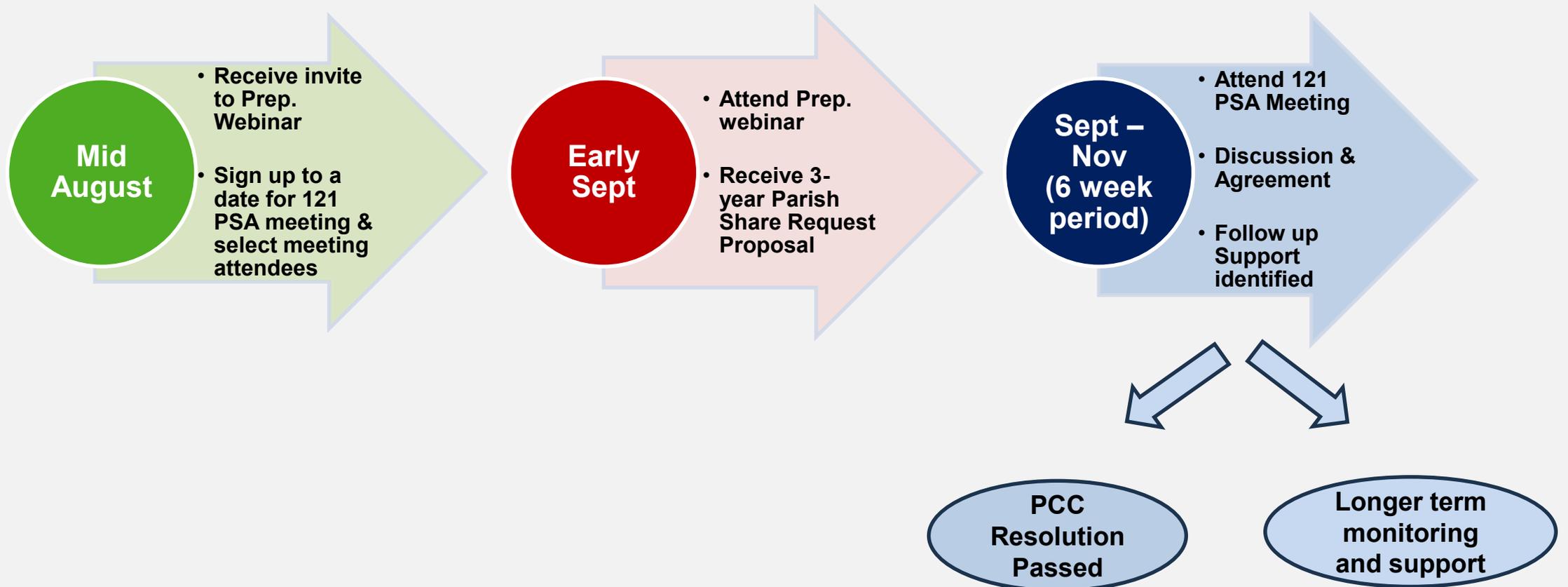


- Benefits to both parishes and the Diocese.
- An opportunity to listen to parishes and understand their individual concerns, local context and the impact of contributing to Parish Share.
- An opportunity to identify and provide targeted support for parishes to make a difference, encourage confidence and help parishes flourish.
- Empower parishes to fulfil their Parish Share contributions.
- An opportunity to explain the impact of Parish Share.
- An opportunity to build stronger relationships between Diocese and parish, improve open communication, and grow trust.



PSA Practicalities

Example Timeline for 1st Deanery PSA Meetings

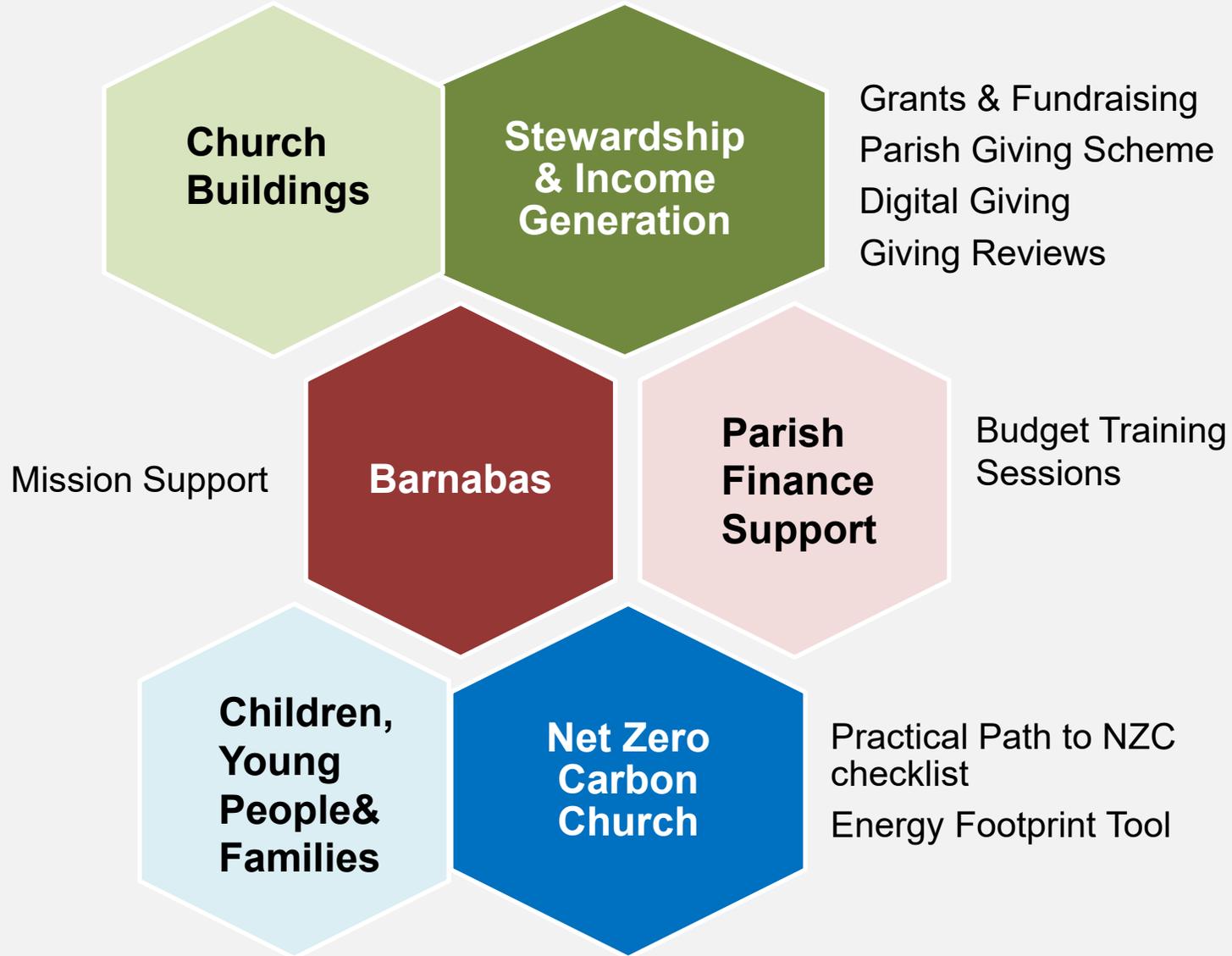


Practicalities - PSA Deanery Selection

Deanery	EA	Draft Timetable
Pontefract	Wakefield	Q4 2025
Aire & Worth	Bradford	Q1 2026
Halifax & Calder Valley	Huddersfield	Q1 2026
South Leeds	Leeds	Q2 2026
Skipton	Ripon	Q2 2026
Barnsley	Wakefield	Q3 2026
Dewsbury and Birstall	Huddersfield	Q3 2026
Wensley	Ripon	Q4 2026
South Craven & Wharfedale	Bradford	Q4 2026
East Leeds	Leeds	Q1 2027
Brighouse & Elland	Huddersfield	Q1 2027
Richmond	Ripon	Q2 2027
Outer Bradford	Bradford	Q3 2027
Harrogate	Ripon	Q3 2027
Ripon	Ripon	Q4 2027
Almondbury and Kirkburton	Huddersfield	Q4 2027
North West Leeds	Leeds	Q1 2028
Wakefield	Wakefield	Q1 2028
Inner Bradford	Bradford	Q2 2028
Huddersfield	Huddersfield	Q2 2028
Bowland & Ewecross	Ripon	Q3 2028

- Draft timetable – subject to change
- Selection through consultation with Archdeacons
- Logistical factors considered
- 150 parishes per year (approx.)

Diocesan Team Support





Q&As