

### **Consultation on the use of assets and the 2024 DBF budget.**

The budget and assets consultation “Tending the Vineyard” went to licensed and PTO clergy and readers, churchwardens, treasurers, and PCC secretaries, diocesan synod members, and deanery secretaries and treasurers, there were 61 responses including 19 from PCCs and some from several different people, so overall at least 150 local parish leaders are represented in the feedback.

Overall 46 responses were in favour, 8 (all individual responses) were clearly opposed (the balance either didn’t address the proposals or were “don’t know”). All of the PCC responses supported the proposals with varying degrees of enthusiasm.

There was strong support for focussing on parish and deanery plans, for a 6% increase in stipends, for using reserves to keep the MMF call down, and overall for the priorities (several stressing support for CYP & CNZ although some separated CNZ out from otherwise supporting the priorities).

The area that generated most negative or challenging response was the notion of building the budget and diocesan plan on deanery plans, 9 responses questioned deanery plans to a greater or lesser extent (in some cases while agreeing with the overall proposal) some asked whether the deanery plans are all good plans and others pushed back harder that they are not “our” plans, this included a couple of PCCs that agreed with the general direction of the plans but didn’t own their deanery plan (in other words wanted us to use reserves for different things, and frame the budget around different plans and priorities).

Selling parsonages, particularly after the StP blog appeared, generated the next highest number of negative responses, at least 7 specified opposition to this.

Spending on CNZ was also a focus of resistance (and some specific support) as was the notion of further expansion of Church