

Why waste my time with this boring, bean counting work?

Any normal person may think the same about being a member of the Diocese's Finance Committee but they would be wrong, very wrong.

The Committee deals with money, of course, but we are also involved with:

- buying, selling and managing houses and property,
- green business through hydroelectric generation,
- retail with a difference through our OpShops,
- Christian hospitality offered at the Rydal estate,
- looking after staff as a good employer,
- management of risks,
- advising the Diocese on how to fund its mission and ministry,
- helping parishes with good Stewardship and other activities.

The Committee thrives when we have people who are independent, uninhibited and ready to express contrary views which test current ways of thinking and doing. The Committee are trustees and directors of the charitable company which legally runs the Diocese.

To make sure this is done well, your church needs people with skills and interests in all these areas. They may be yours. Using these skills is a calling from God to join in his mission and ministry for Cumbria. You may be using them every day in your workplace. You may have retired with a rich harvest of experience. You may know someone whose life experiences are just what can strengthen the Finance Committee and the Diocese. Don't leave those gifts behind when you worship, they are part of your offering.

The Committee meets six times a year in Penrith during the day. Meetings are held on alternate months, plus a couple of extras. You need to be willing to devote sufficient time in preparation in order to understand the issues coming up. It would be great to have a spread of trustees from around the county. Expenses will be paid. We have four ex-officio trustees - the Bishop of Carlisle and three Archdeacons. This Autumn we need to elect five more trustees who can be lay or clergy, but bearing in mind the ex-officio membership, a big lay input is essential to the committee work. We also welcome more women members.

So what's in it for you? Simply the chance to use life and work experience as a service to God; you could say it was a calling. And, by the way, it's a big job, it's not boring and there's no bean counting!

The members of the Diocesan Synod nominate and vote for members of the Finance Committee. The application deadline is 12 noon, Thursday 25 October, 2018.

If you want to be nominated, or for further advice, please contact Eleanor Scott on 01768 807760 or at eleanor.scott@carlisle-diocese.org.uk.