

# **Pensions Board Update**

**RCACoE, March 2021**

# Continued COVID-19 Response



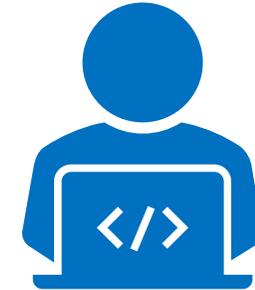
## CHARM Housing

- Very tough winter period esp 3 storms in January
- Adapting to changing government requirements
- Sanctuary maintenance prioritised on essential repairs (large number of Sanctuary staff sick or self isolating)
- Void/In-going works continuing where possible
- Viewings and moves continuing to happen



## Supported Housing

- Moves and viewings temporarily suspended during latest lockdown, but will resume as soon as safely possible
- All residents have been offered the vaccine
- Almost all staff have been offered the vaccine
- Exploring the route map out of lockdown with staff and residents

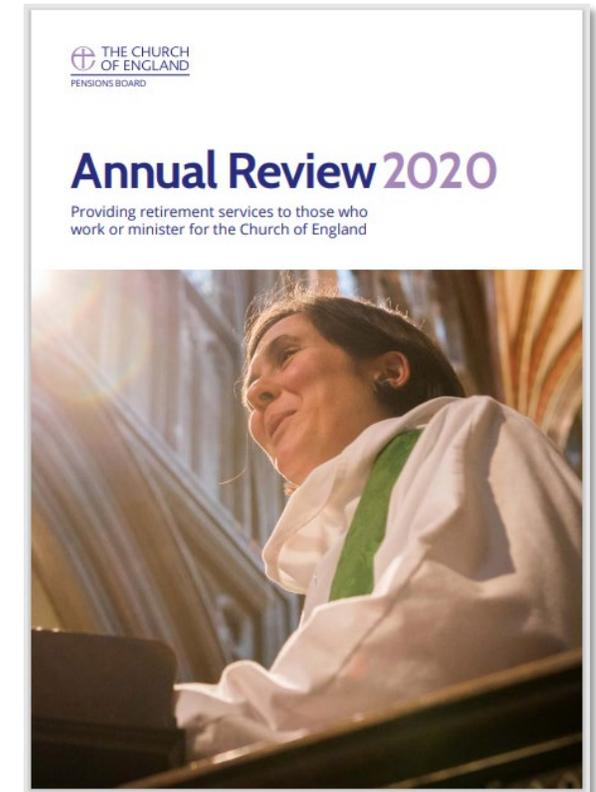


## Church House Operations

- Remote working continuing

# Annual Review 2020

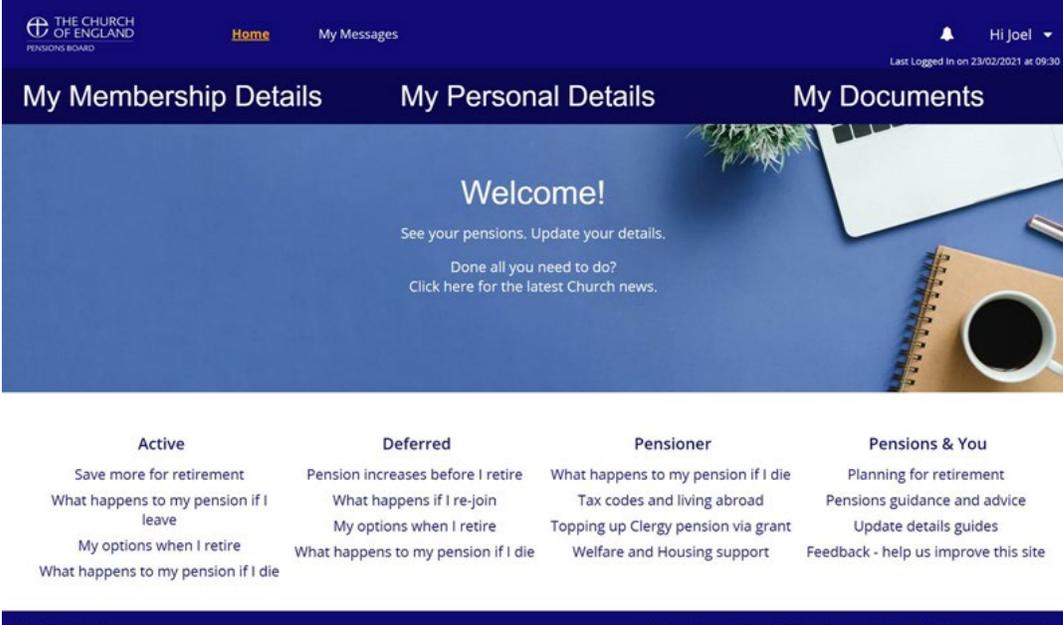
- Annual Review document now published [www.churchofengland.org/cepb](http://www.churchofengland.org/cepb)
- Highlights include
  - 9.4% return on investments in 2020
  - Significant decarbonising of equity investments during 2020
  - Pandemic response
  - Taking forward our priorities of simplification, self-sufficiency and great conversations
- New Stewardship report to be published soon
  - Lays out compliance with Stewardship Code



# Pensions

- **Covid**
  - Heavy period for the administration team
- **Valuations**
  - Church Workers and Church Administrator Valuations completed
  - Clergy scheme valuation due as at 31 Dec 2021 – beginning to plan for this
- **Financial advice service**
  - LV= service available to scheme members
  - Discounted financial advice (still some cost)
  - Call volumes reduced since start of Covid to a handful of calls each month
  - Service due for review later this year
  - NB this is different to the Board's free welfare advice service

- **Pensions Online**
  - New web based tool for members to access information on their pensions, see payslips, update details, etc
  - Starting with c200 pensioners later this year
  - Eventually all members and employers



The screenshot shows the Pensions Online user interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Church of England Pensions Board logo, a 'Home' link, 'My Messages', and a user profile for 'Hi Joel' with a dropdown arrow and a timestamp 'Last Logged In on 23/02/2021 at 09:30'. Below the navigation bar are three main menu items: 'My Membership Details', 'My Personal Details', and 'My Documents'. The main content area features a 'Welcome!' message with the text 'See your pensions. Update your details.' and 'Done all you need to do? Click here for the latest Church news.' The background of the main content area is a blue desk with a laptop, a notebook, and a cup of coffee. At the bottom, there is a grid of four columns representing different pensioner statuses: 'Active', 'Deferred', 'Pensioner', and 'Pensions & You'. Each column lists specific topics related to that status. The footer contains the text '©Clifica 2021' and 'Contact us - Accessibility - Terms of Use - Privacy and Cookies'.

Active	Deferred	Pensioner	Pensions & You
Save more for retirement	Pension increases before I retire	What happens to my pension if I die	Planning for retirement
What happens to my pension if I leave	What happens if I re-join	Tax codes and living abroad	Pensions guidance and advice
My options when I retire	My options when I retire	Topping up Clergy pension via grant	Update details guides
What happens to my pension if I die	What happens to my pension if I die	Welfare and Housing support	Feedback - help us improve this site

# State Pensions Underpayment

- Systemic underpayment of state pensions to some older women exposed by consultants LCP (who are also the Board's actuaries), including:
  - Married women born before 6 April 1953
  - Widows whose state pension did not change when their husband died
  - Widows who may have been underpaid while their husband was still alive
  - Those aged 80 or over, who can claim a state pension of £80.45, regardless of their National Insurance record
- Married women who retired on small state pensions before April 2016 should get an uplift to 60% of their husband's payments once he reaches retirement age too; pre-2008 this was not automatic
- Could RCACoE flag this issue with members?
- See: [www.lcp.uk.com/is-your-state-pension-being-underpaid/](http://www.lcp.uk.com/is-your-state-pension-being-underpaid/)

# Housing

## ■ Maintenance

- Gas servicing continuing
- Electrical inspection programme

## ■ New CHARM customers

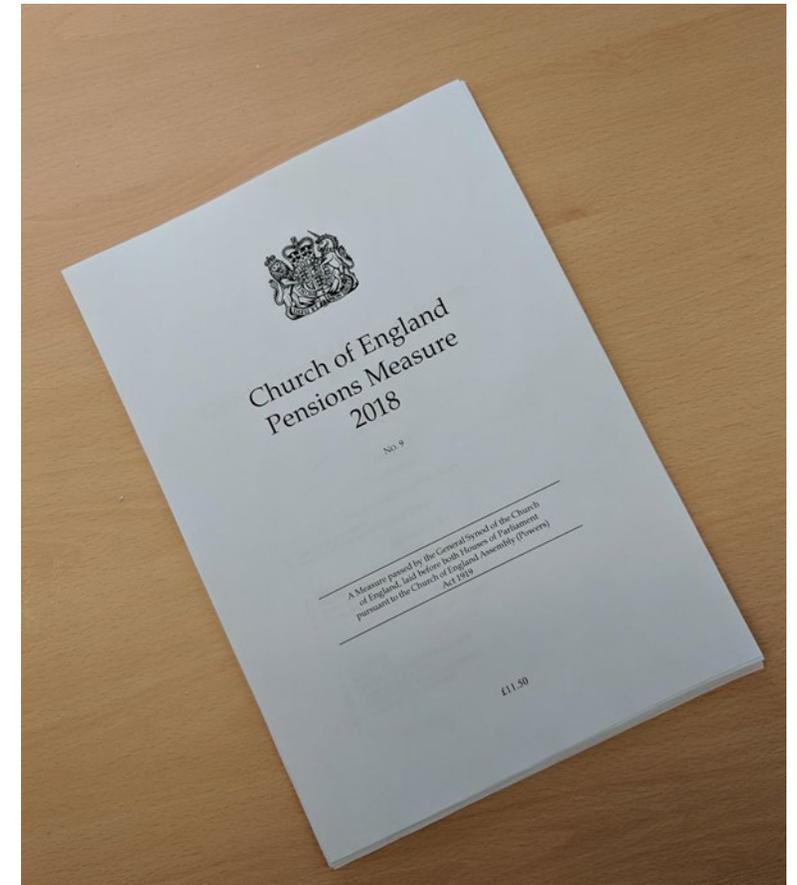
- Spring 'Wake up' letter to those over 60
- Advises of options for retirement housing and invites registering for CHARM via a new on-line tool
- Continuing to work most closely with those <18 months from retirement
- 'Matching' process developed as part of the pandemic response has worked well and will be continued

## ■ Shared Ownership

- Board offers up to 75% of capital value of a house to a maximum of £150,000
- 125 yr lease to resident on fully repairing basis (some older residents use Sanctuary)
- Resident pays a rent on the Board's share of equity, plus insurance contribution
- Board's equity share funded from its long term borrowing
- Resident may 'staircase' or refinance –no penalties for leaving the scheme (unlike some other shared ownership models)
- c100 properties; 2 or 3 new each year offset by 2 or 3 buying out
- Other options are available inc commercial mortgages and OPSO

# Simplifying Governance

- Excellent response to consultation on simplification proposals last year, with overwhelming support
- Legislative Reform Order to go to April Synod
- If approved:
  - Leads to fresh elections for Member Nominated Trustees
  - For the first time, retired clergy enfranchised in these elections
  - New, smaller, Trustee Board in place 1 July
  - Complies with Regulatory best practice



**The Church of England Pensions Board is a registered charity number 236627**

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