I write to draw your attention to the increasing inadequacy of Church workers' pensions.

Since 2005, pensions paid to the already-retired have scarcely increased. “Bonuses” (ie increases) of 2% were declared in both 2010 and 2011. Otherwise, there have been no changes, meaning that over those years the overall increase has been little more than 4%. Even at a time when the value of most pensions has declined, this has been a poor result.

Many members of the fund were in relatively poorly paid posts, as administrative staff, Cathedral organists, vergers and so on. Further, the entitlement of pensioners' widows compares unfavourably with the provisions of many other funds.

Employers' contributions have been paid by individual Dioceses, cathedrals etc rather than by the Church Commissioners or one of their Boards. As a result, responsibility for any augmentation of the fund lies with these. Various diocesan sources have expressed an unwillingness to request any action, as this might form a “distraction” from raising funds for clergy stipends etc.

This is written as a personal letter in view of your interest in the problems involved, and not to you as MP for a constituency in which I do not live.