

Parish Share FAQ

Please do contact your Archdeacon if you have any more questions.

Our benefice is going into vacancy, will we still have the same allocation for Parish Share?

Yes, because the total calculation of Parish Share needed in our diocese as a whole already takes vacancies into account and is based on an average of ten vacancies per year.

Will we need to pay more Parish Share if we have a curate?

No, the cost of our ordinands and curates is averaged out across the diocese as these are training posts.

What if our vicar is self-supporting or part-time?

Parish Share is agreed at a benefice level. This means that the Parish Share requests will be different across the diocese depending on how many clergy serve a particular benefice, and whether or not they are stipendiary, self-supporting, or live in a clergy house. Dividing the total cost of ministry across the benefices (in a way that is proportionate to your clergy allocation) is the most equitable and easily understandable way of sharing the total cost of ministry and mission across the diocese.

Why does Parish Share go up every year?

The new banding system brings stability to the parish share process. We anticipate that with this process the overall increase will change broadly in-line with inflation to enable rising costs to be covered.

We have a listed building to care for and repair and we can't keep up our Parish Share as well as look after the building. Is there anything we can do?

We recognise the many challenges of parish ministry and the difficult decisions that need to be made. This new Parish Share process is founded on trust and relationship and we encourage you to speak to your Archdeacon at any time. The church buildings team is also there to provide support and advice.

We would like to employ a youth worker/ administrator/pioneer minister... which we could do if we reduced our Parish Share. Would that be possible?

The deanery planning process seeks to ensure the provision of ministry of all types across the deanery and its benefices. A good starting place would be to engage first with your Area Dean, Lay Chair and the deanery leadership team, or deanery synod rep team to find out more about your deanery pathway and priorities for ministry.



I've heard it said that Parish Share is a spiritual issue – what does that mean?

We believe that we are the body of Christ together across the diocese and that every community should receive ministry, regardless of its financial circumstances. We recognise that God has given us resources which we are called to share. Our giving comes out of a direct response to God's love and generosity and is integral to our faith.

Is there any extra support for our poorest parishes?

This open and transparent approach to Parish Share seeks to recognise the needs of all parishes and benefices, especially for those who struggle the most financially.

Can we cut posts at 'central services' to save costs?

The GDBF employ staff to support, enable and equip all of our worshipping communities. Bishop's Council trustees continually review the budget and all GDBF posts to ensure that department budgets are being managed well and within budget. They also review the impact and outcomes of the work. Staffing structures in all departments are regularly reviewed to ensure efficiencies wherever possible.

What is the Stipends Fund?

"This fund (which sits within the GDBF) is restricted to directly supporting clergy stipends, pension and housing costs. It consists of historical endowments and has been enhanced by proceeds from the sale of Glebe (Church land). The funds are then invested and produce both income and capital growth. While we are very fortunate in our diocese to have these funds, they will not last forever.

