SHARING GOD'S GIFTS WITH GENEROSITY: A GUIDE TO PARISH SHARE

DIOCESE of OXFORD

A Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world

Thank you

Your Parish Share contribution enables us to support you. Your contributions allow our mission and ministry to be spread across the whole diocese, to areas which may not otherwise hear the good news.

But we know it's not easy to give when every penny counts, when every penny has been hard earned. Thank you, also, to all those who give the gift of their time freely. Our mission and ministry would look very different without all that you do.

Each of you make up the diocese, just as each of us make up the body of Christ. Mutual support is the acknowledgement that we are all part of a greater mission. Our ministry is not carried out in isolation, but in communion with all of those around us.

All things come from him, our gracious God, and in sharing God's abundant gifts, we share the love he has shown us when he gave us the ultimate gift – his son Jesus Christ.

The Bishop of Oxford, The Rt Revd Steven Croft

Chair of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance, Sir Hector Sants

Reading

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

Acts 2 42-45

Prayer

Lord, teach me to be generous, to serve you as you deserve,
to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to look for any reward,
save that of knowing that I do your holy will.

How does Parish Share benefit my church?

This year we expect to generate £33m in income. The bulk of this income is Parish Share (£19.6m this year), with the rest largely coming from property and other investments.

We have budgeted to spend £33m this year. Of this, £24.3m (73%) will go on direct parish costs such as stipends, NI and pension, clergy housing, training, ministerial oversight and support for parish ministry, with a further £5.3m (16%) to be spent on other parish services such as safeguarding and clergy housing upgrades, and £1.5m (5%) going in grants, mainly to parishes.

How is Parish Share calculated?

In 2021 a full review of the diocesan allocation methodology was completed, with a further limited review taking place in 2023 that led to further changes. We consulted and worked with parishioners, clergy and deanery officers to create a scheme that takes into account a number of factors:

Gross cost of ministry	Budgeted stipend, national insurance and clergy pension contributions plus the diocesan average cost of housing our clergy (includes repairs and maintenance, insurance, council tax and water)
Vacancy savings	Budgeted stipend and on-cost savings from stipendiary minister vacancies are shared across all deaneries, irrespective of where the vacancy arises.
Training costs	Diocesan and National training costs are allocated based on the proportion of all clergy in each deanery.
Support costs	Diocesan and National support costs are allocated based on an 'ability to contribute' measure that considers electoral roll, weekly attendance and the relative deprivation of each parish.
Statutory fees	The diocesan portion of fees for weddings and funerals is reimbursed based on the four-year average of the actual fees returned by each benefice.
Glebe	Investment income from the glebe portfolio is shared with deaneries to support church buildings and the cost of stipends.
Transitional mechanism	Significant fluctuations in allocation to each deanery, year on year, are capped to offer some certainty in deanery financial planning.

From diocese to deanery, working together

The diocesan Parish Share allocation to each deanery is governed by core and operating principles that aim to keep decision-making fair and transparent. At its heart is the gospel message that we are generous and gracious, for God's mission.

The allocation is subject to thorough review and forms part of the annual budget process for the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. The budget and consequent Parish Share allocation to each deanery are discussed and approved by the Finance Committee, Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod.

Each autumn your deanery synod will meet to discuss its own Parish Share allocation and agree on how that will be distributed among its parishes. Your agreed deanery allocation methodology may include some aspects of the diocesan allocation methodology but may be very different. By allowing each deanery to agree on their allocation methodology, local financial circumstance and ministry and missional needs can be taken into account.

Rebates of Parish Share are given to those deaneries that contribute 50% of their allocation by the end of June and 100% of their allocation by the end of December each year. We also give an additional rebate to each deanery for every parish that contributes 100% of its allocation. It is for each deanery synod to agree on how these rebates should be used.

A discount is given directly to those parishes who contribute their Parish Share by direct debit or make a full contribution of their allocation within one month of the start of the financial year.

Diocesan support towards the Parish Share allocation is given to all parishes in vacancy and where a parish is without a stipendiary or house-for-duty minister due to absence for six months or longer or where a minister is on maternity leave.

Would you like to know more?

Information for PCCs on how to pay Parish Share and latest Parish Share receipt reports can be found on our website here www.oxford.anglican.org/parish-support/parish-finance/parish-share/

For more detailed information on Parish Share and diocesan finances read our *On The Money* guide and *The Difference We Make*, available by visiting www.oxford.anglican.org/who-we-are/how-we-are-governed/diocesan-finance/