

# Sharing God's gifts with generosity – a guide to Parish Share



**DIOCESE of OXFORD**

*Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes*

# 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.



**Bishop Steven**

## How does Parish Share benefit my church?

### 90 pence in every pound comes back to our parishes in:

- **Clergy** - stipends, pension contributions, housing and training, including curates (each vicar costs £65K each year)
- **Support for parish ministry** - mission, church buildings, safeguarding, etc.
- **Development Fund** - grants to parishes for missional projects.

### 10 pence in every pound goes to:

- **National church costs**, including support to churches in poorer parts of the country
- Our contribution towards the funding of **initial ordination training** at a national level
- Other diocesan **support and administration** costs.

## How is Parish Share calculated?

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

<b>Cost of ministry</b>	Budgeted stipend costs and diocesan average cost of housing
<b>Vacancy savings</b>	Budgeted savings from stipendiary minister vacancies
<b>Training costs</b>	Allocated based on the deanery proportion of all clergy
<b>Support costs</b>	Allocated based on ability to contribute, which considers the electoral roll, weekly attendance and relative deprivation of the parish
<b>Statutory fees</b>	The portion of fees for weddings and funerals that PCCs are required to pay to the diocese are reimbursed based on the four-year average of the actual fees returned by each benefice.
<b>Glebe</b>	Income from the glebe portfolio reduces the diocesan parish share request to each deanery, partly per stipendiary cleric and partly through the 'Community Support Allowance' which is targeted, by a formula, at those parishes most in need.
<b>Diocesan support allowance</b>	Additional support is given to the five deaneries in the most deprived areas of the diocese.

## From diocese to deanery, working together

The diocesan Parish Share allocation to each deanery is governed by core and operating principles which 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. The budget and allocation 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 how that will be distributed among its parishes. This allows deaneries to have the flexibility to take local circumstances into account and encourage locally agreed mutual support.

A rebate of Parish Share is given to those deaneries which contribute 100% of their allocation and a discount is given to those parishes who use direct debit.

## Has this left you wanting more?

For more detailed information on Parish Share and diocesan finances read our *On the money* guide and *The difference we make*, available by visiting [oxford.anglican.org](http://oxford.anglican.org)

