THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND BIRMINGHAM

2025 at a glance

18,000 Lay people in worshipping communities

146 Parishes

44 Oversight areas

6 Deaneries

1.6 million

Population of diocese
(across Birmingham, Solihull and some areas of Sandwell and Bromsgrove)

234 volunteer ministers

- 86 Licensed Readers
- 107 Clergy with Permission to Officiate (PTO)
- 28 Self-supporting ministers (SSM)*
- 13 Locally ordained ministers

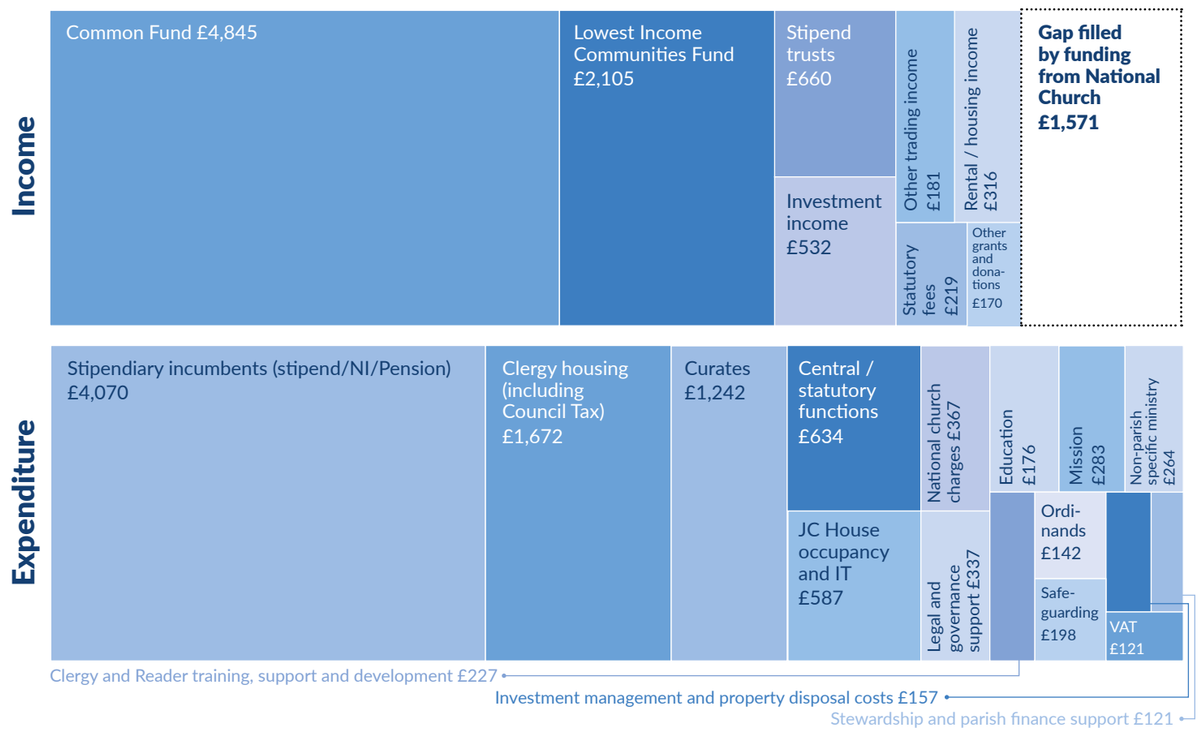
In addition, we have **90 licensed Readers** aged over 70
**Self-supporting ministers including SSM curates*

126 parish clergy

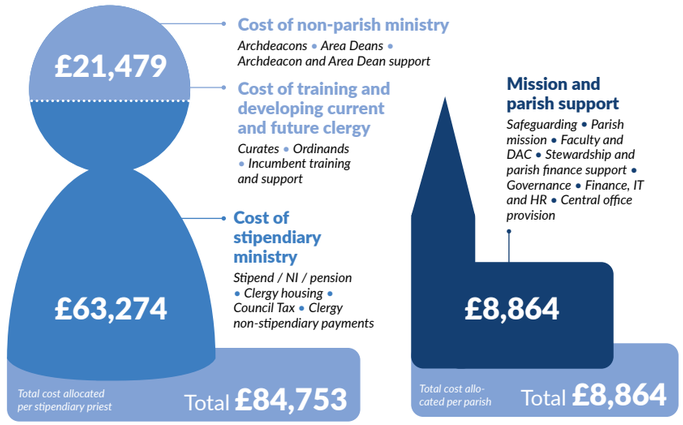
- 103 Incumbents
- 23 Curates

Our unrestricted finances

from 2025 audited accounts in £'000s



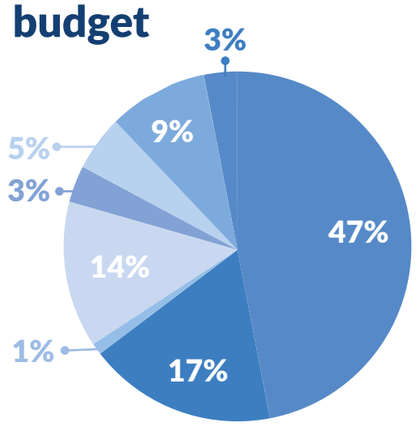
2026 unrestricted Common Fund



Common Fund is the vital contributions that we receive from our parishes, forming our largest regular income source. It contributes to ministry costs, ministerial training and parish support. As a diocese, we do not have sufficient other sources of income to cover the costs of our wider support infrastructure.

Rooted in biblical generosity, Common Fund traditionally contributed around 56% of our core income before the pandemic. Actual receipts are now around £1.2m lower than pre-pandemic, whilst we have seen significant increases in our costs reflecting the impact of inflation. It is still our aim to grow the level of Common Fund back to more sustainable levels.

2026 unrestricted (core) expenditure budget



- Stipend / NI / pension (47%)
- Clergy housing (17%)
- Clergy grants etc. (1%)
- Curates and ordinands (14%)
- Clergy and Reader training, support and development (3%)
- Non-parish ministry (inc. Area Deans) (5%)
- Parish support infrastructure (9%)
- Diocesan operating costs (3%)

Projects funded through restricted grants in 2025

We received funding of over £5.2m during the year to enable a wide range of activities that aim to support our parishes to grow at the heart of their communities.

Sustainability

Funding of £1.6m from the National Church covered our operational deficit in 2025 enabling us to continue our journey to growth. Their funds also enabled us to start forming our Generosity Team through the appointment of our Head of Generosity (Bishop's Advisor for Common Fund) and continued the support for our project management office.

Leadership

The National Church is supporting us to review and reset our approach to leadership to enable us to find, form and deploy the right leaders in the right places. A practical outworking of this has been the *Become* project which has enabled us to pilot how we could find and form leaders within our outer estate parish contexts.

Parish growth

Projects supported in this area have led to the creation of *Safe Spaces for Young People*, Anglo-Catholic parishes equipped to be more missional, the establishment of worshipping communities in our church schools through the *Flourish* project and much more.

Church planting and revitalisation

Ongoing support has meant the flourishing of a number of church plants and revitalisations including Rea Church, Lighthouse at St Mary's and Gas Street Longbridge.

People & Places

This has been the final year of this programme, and we have continued to form and equip Oversight Areas, and key local leaders, to lead in mission in a contextual way.

Regional racial justice collaboration

Funding has enabled us to continue our collaboration with the five other West Midlands dioceses to promote racial justice in the way that we work together and support those of UKME heritage to flourish.

Other initiatives

We continue to receive a range of small funding including grants to enable our churches to improve their property and to enable us to plan how to reduce our carbon dependency.