

Why is the payment of Parish Share important, even when times are hard?

The stated intention of the Church of England is to be 'A Christian Presence in Every Community'. Where the pub, the school, the working men's club, the post office and shop have all gone, the Church of England remains. Across the country this is achieved through sharing the costs of ministry in places unable to afford it, with those who have a greater ability to pay. In this diocese we work out what contribution we ask each church to make on the basis of the real income of the real people in our churches (see Fairer Share) and we ask the same percentage level of giving from every single person. So even when it feels hard, just remember, if you don't manage to pay your share, you are asking your neighbour to pick up the cost.



For more information on how parish share is allocated, please visit:

www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/a-fairer-share



www.cofe-worcester.org.uk



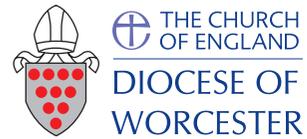
THE CHURCH
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Kingdom People

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Parish Share



Understanding the Parish Share

What is Parish Share?

Parish Share is the financial expression of what it means to be part of the Church of England in the Diocese of Worcester. Each year, each parish or benefice is asked for money to contribute towards the cost of ensuring that the Church of England is able to be present everywhere, regardless of whether people locally can afford to pay. Parish Share pays for ministry in parishes across the Diocese.

How big is the Parish Share?

Churches in the Diocese of Worcester gave over £4 million in 2017. This is made possible by the great generosity of people in all of our churches. Whilst this is a very significant amount, it is still only just over half of the total cost incurred across the Diocese and is less than the cost of just our parish clergy, let alone the many other essential costs of being a diocese together.

What does the Parish Share pay for?

Parish share all goes towards paying for the costs of ministry and mission in the Diocese of Worcester. First and foremost this is the cost of our parish clergy; their stipends, housing, training and support costs. In addition to this we have to pay for many other services that we legally have to have such as Finance, HR, Safeguarding and the Registry. Then there are services we choose to offer in support of the development of mission and ministry across the diocese such as children and youth work, stewardship, the identification and support of vocations and the ongoing training of ministers, lay and ordained. How much is to be spent on all of these things is decided each year by the Diocesan Synod and then the amount needed in Parish Share is worked out and divided between the churches of the diocese according to the Fairer Share calculation (see separate leaflet).



What doesn't the Parish Share pay for?

Bishops

Both of the bishops and their offices are funded by the Church Commissioners. The Bishop of Dudley's house is owned and maintained by the DBF in line with other clergy.

Cathedral

The Cathedral is responsible for its own costs and receives no funding from the diocese.

Strategic Development Fund and Lowest Income Community Fund sponsored projects

Some projects undertaken in the Diocese are funded by the national church. These do not form part of the Parish Share calculation and the funds they use are specific to the particular project and could not be used to reduce Parish Share. At the moment this includes the Calling Young Disciples project and the work of the new Strategic Programme Manager.

Increases in the reserves or investments of the diocese

The Worcester diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) is fortunate in having both investments and reserves. These are used to contribute towards the costs of running the diocese. The amount needed to be collected in Parish Share is calculated after the benefit of income from investments has been taken into account. At the moment we are drawing on reserves to cover the shortfall in the amount of Parish Share we are receiving compared to that which has been calculated as required. Full payment of the Parish Share requested is needed to ensure that the DBF continues to hold sufficient reserves. Reserves are held according to the agreed policy which ensures adherence to Charities Commission guidelines and safeguards the investment income. The amount of Parish Share requested is always significantly less than the total expenditure and therefore never contributes to increases in reserves or investments. If everyone managed to pay in full, the amount requested would actually go down!