

The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich is a charity and the administrative hub for the Church of England in Suffolk, serving 631,000 people through St Edmundsbury Cathedral, 443 parishes and 87 Church Schools. Led by Bishop Martin Seeley, our vision is 'flourishing congregations, making a difference'.

We are one of Suffolk's largest charities with over 3,000 volunteers and an annual income of over £8 million.

Growing in God

Our goal is to grow the depth of Christian faith amongst our congregations and extend our reach, influence, witness and impact. We support outward-looking churches to make a significant difference in our communities.

As a charity we work hard to be financially sustainable, and our expenditure is monitored to ensure our income is used as effectively as possible to support parishes.

Our churches are also individual charities, each run by a Parochial Church Council (PCC) to promote the mission of the church throughout the parish. A church is responsible for its own spending to care for the church buildings and carry out activities to support its mission.

'Parish Share' is the contribution churches pay for the costs related to mission and ministry throughout the Diocese.

This money is given faithfully in response to our generous God, and the Diocese is the steward of how these funds are spent and invested for the growth of God's Kingdom.



Without generous donations via Parish Share, it would not be possible for the Church of England in Suffolk to continue as it is.



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Our finances explained

Parish Share

Parish Share is the model our Diocese uses to share the costs of mission and ministry between every parish in order to fulfil our calling to 'Grow in God'. The basic principal is Christian generosity and mutual support.

Parish Share enables us all to contribute together so we can:

- fund mission and ministry in all our parishes
- unite a partnership in proclaiming the Christian faith
- develop enthusiastic ministry in every community

Over 80% of our expenditure goes directly back to Mission and Ministry.

Parish Share has a clear purpose, to enable the Church throughout Suffolk to proclaim God's Kingdom that "thy Kingdom come". It fulfils our calling to be the Body of Christ, working in partnership with the stronger supporting the weaker, so that together we can have a greater impact.

The Diocese responds to this calling by using Parish Share funds to provide ordained ministers and lay ministers alongside essential practical services and resources. Please see the expenditure charts and explanation overleaf.

Parish Share contributions are very important to us as we have few historic financial investments and reserves.

A high proportion of our churches pay 100% of their share in full with some overpaying their allocation to help others. There is enormous gratitude for the generosity and faithfulness of so many of our churches and their congregations.

Generosity is at the heart of discipleship, how we follow Christ by giving to him in response to all he has given to us. By paying Parish Share, there is more money available centrally to pay for mission and ministry throughout the whole Diocese – so everyone benefits.

"God's way of being is a way of love and forgiveness but it is also a way of generosity"

– Bishop Mike

Support available

We actively seek to support parishes who are having difficulties in contributing their Parish Share.

Running our churches' mission and buildings relies on hard-working volunteers in our congregations raising enough funds. We realise this can be an enormous challenge especially as it is hard to ask our congregations to donate more: they may be on fixed or low incomes; in some places congregations are getting smaller and some people may prefer to give to their church but not Parish Share.

Our team can help you plan a giving strategy and offer advice on fundraising, parish share, giving, legacies and provide resources to help.

As part of this the Diocese is a member of the Parish Giving Scheme. This is a direct debit scheme that is free to join and automatically reclaims Gift Aid on eligible donations. It also includes the option for donors to index-link annual increases to their donations. Full details of this scheme are available on our website: www.cofesuffolk.org/stewardship.



Thank you

Over 70% of Diocesan income comes from our congregations in the form of Parish Share, raising £6.3 million per year - a remarkable achievement.

We are delighted that over 80% of parishes met their requested contribution and that some parishes supported others who were unable to meet their commitments.

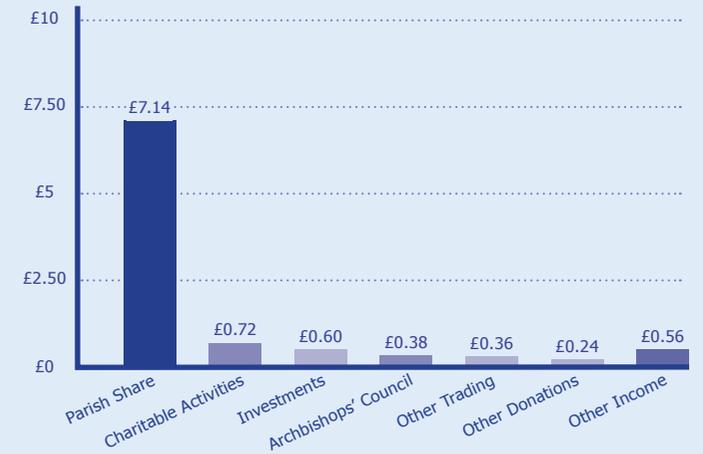


We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part."

2 Corinthians 8: 1-2

We endeavour to maximise income from house rentals (during vacancies), land (mostly fields) and investments. We also receive income from the Archbishops' Council. However, as you can see in our expenditure graph, we also pay the national church to support other dioceses less fortunate with more widespread areas of significant deprivation.

Income for each £10



Our Expenditure

Many of our clergy receive a stipend, which is a package of benefits that enable them and their families to undertake a commitment to their church and its community. It is intended to provide adequately for a clergy person during their working years and includes the provision of housing and a pension in their retirement.

The national Archbishops' Council sets the minimum stipendiary rates assisting dioceses with setting their rate locally.

"The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel"

1 Corinthians 9: 14

As part of a programme of learning and development, we recruit and train new clergy through our training pathways. Our expenditure includes a national contribution for college fees and the cost of deploying and training curates.

Our expenditure also supports the development of non-stipendiary volunteer ministry.

The increasing and significant contribution of self-supporting and House for Duty clergy is an amazing gift to this diocese, and we actively support and train Licensed Lay Ministers including Readers, Elders, Children's and Families' Ministers, Youth Ministers, Pioneers and Evangelists.

We have developed a range of resources, booklets, training days and roadshows to enable mission to thrive under our vision Growing in God.

Our church buildings expenditure relates to the services of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the care of churches, as we support parishes to ensure church buildings are well cared for to remain innovative gifts for mission in their community.

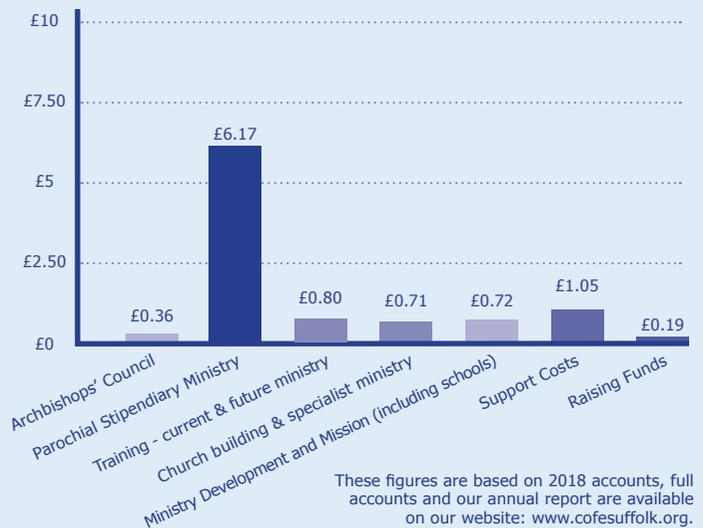
Our expenditure to the National Church is our contribution towards their costs such as for General Synod. We also have associated costs to manage our investments and raising funds and additional income.

Our Diocesan administrative hub is here to serve and support parishes with their engagement with God's mission and it includes stewardship, finance, communications, property, safeguarding and Diocesan Synod.

We offer Parochial Church Council officers training, advice and the provision of information to help you maintain and grow your church, from Treasurer and Churchwarden, through to Safeguarding Officer or volunteer, we are there to support you in your role.

It is your generosity that truly keeps churches running throughout our Diocese.

Expenditure for each £10



These figures are based on 2018 accounts, full accounts and our annual report are available on our website: www.cofesuffolk.org.