

# The Diocese of Rochester's COMMON FUND

one mission, many places

## What is the Common Fund?

The Common Fund is the common pot of money paid into by congregations across the Diocese.

It is used to provide and support ministers, and to further the work of the Church in every parish, across Medway, North and West Kent and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley.

The Diocese is a wonderfully diverse and vibrant community of faith, with each parish facing different challenges and needs.

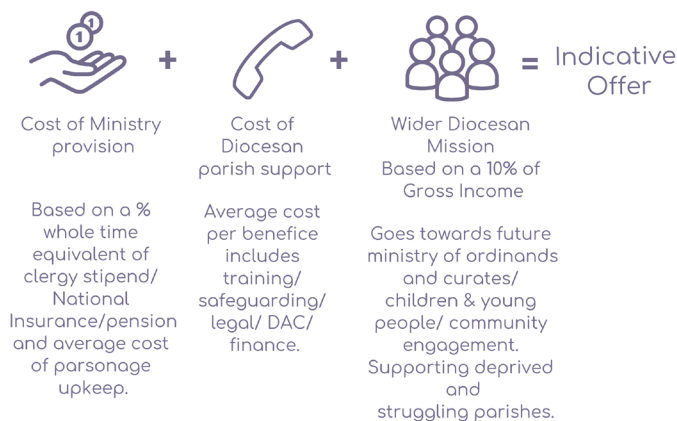
Our shared Called Together vision expresses our ambition to meet these challenges as a family of faith, supporting each other as we seek to grow disciples, enrich communities and resource our mission and ministry.

The Common Fund helps us realise this ambition. It means every contribution matters.

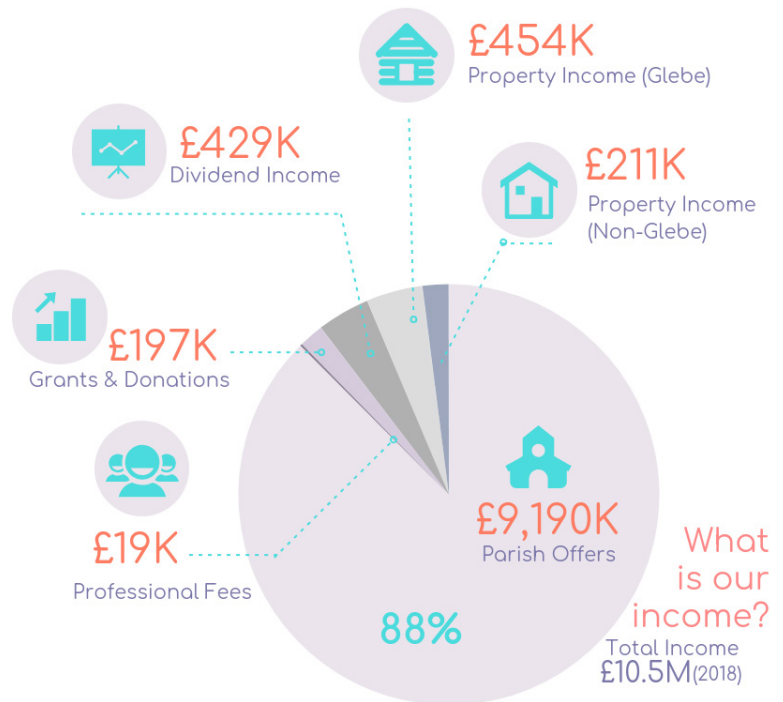
## How does it work?

In 2019, our Diocesan Synod - the decision-making body of the Diocese - agreed to introduce a system which uses a common formula to calculate a fair and reasonable amount a parish can contribute to the Common Fund.

It is called the Indicative Offer. This is how your parish's offer is calculated:



\* For 2019, the Ministry Cost for a housed full-time incumbent is £40,839 and the Diocesan Support cost for a benefice is £10,149.



## Why do we do this?

The Diocese does not receive any funding from the government and contributes to the National Church, so we must raise everything we spend ourselves.

By giving into the Common Fund, we are embodying biblical principles and the generosity at the heart of the first Christian communities.

This is not about paying-in to get back what you need but giving because of a shared sense of responsibility to everyone in our Church family, so that all can flourish.

*"All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions and gave to everyone in need."*

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**Your generosity enables us to grow.**

Thank you. By giving in this way it means we can:

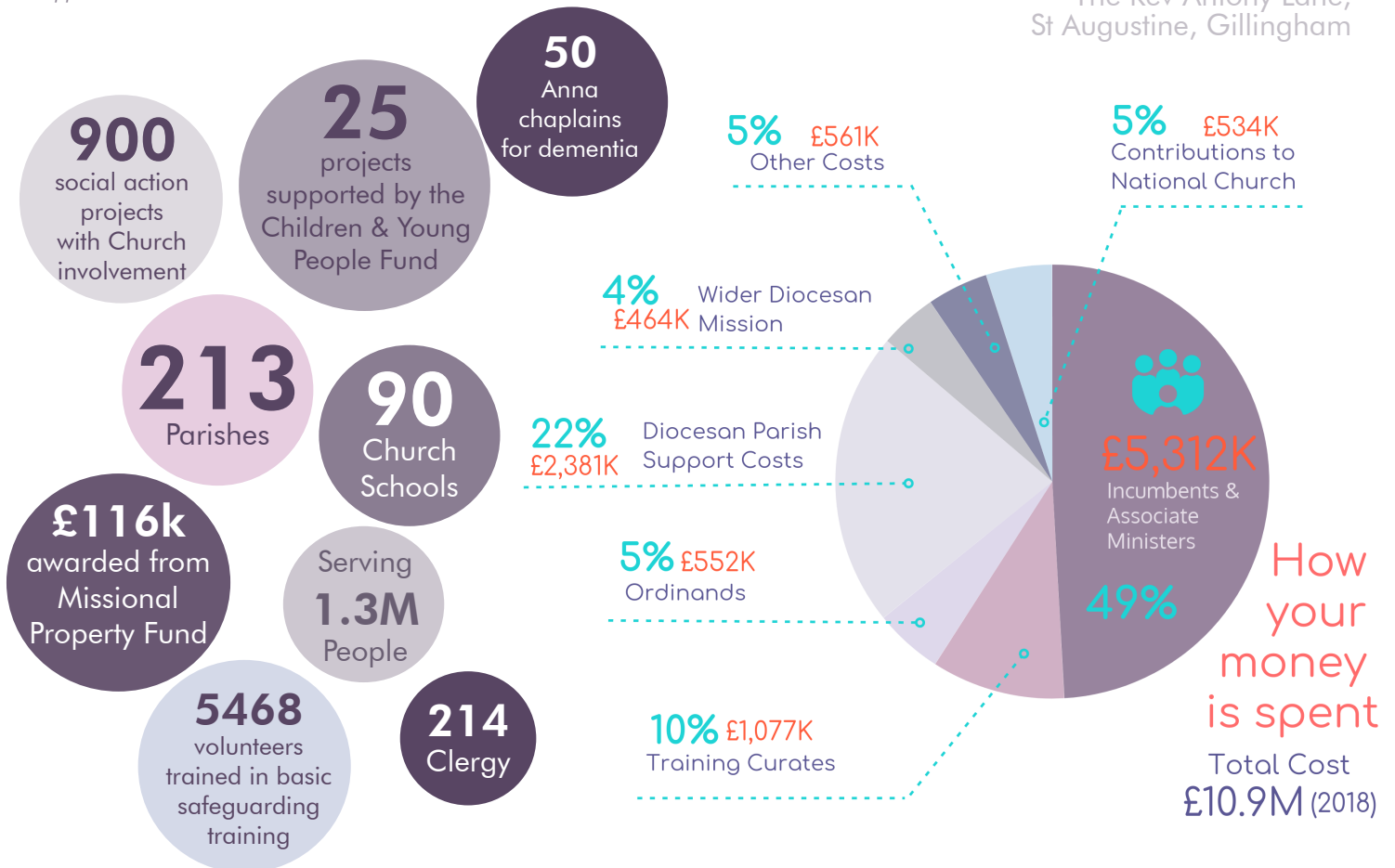
- have a stable platform from which to grow,
- support those parishes who are in need, and
- maintain a presence in every community.

It ensures that every parish, rich or poor, urban or rural, can live out one mission, in many places.

*Below is a snapshot of the life of the Diocese, which would not be supported without the Common Fund.*

*"We are very grateful for the financial resources that the wider diocesan family provides through the Common Fund to support us. We often gain far more than we are asked to or can pay. It means we can grow a valuable presence in our community."*

The Rev Antony Lane,  
 St Augustine, Gillingham



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For more detailed information about the Common Fund visit: [www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/commonfund](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/commonfund)

**Prayer**

Lord, you have entrusted us with the fullness of all that you have given and empowered us with the presence of your Holy Spirit: grant to us joy in our stewardship, generosity in our giving, trust in your promises, and confidence in Christ when our deeds are judged; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*from Giving in Grace*