

# Parish Share 2027 Explained

“We value generosity and give and receive sincerely.”



DIOCESE OF BRISTOL  
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## A WORD FROM Scripture

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”

### 2 Corinthians 9:6-8



WELCOME

# A letter from your Archdeacons



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ across the Diocese of Bristol,

We are so grateful for the faithfulness, generosity and perseverance we see across our churches. Week by week, you welcome people into worship, walk with those who are hurting, nurture children and young people, and bear witness to Christ in your communities. Much of this ministry is unseen, but none of it is unnoticed by God.

In Scripture, generosity is not a transaction but a response to grace. Paul reminds the Corinthians that *"God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times... you will abound in every good work."* (2 Corinthians 9:8) Generosity flows from God's generosity to us, which was supremely demonstrated in Christ; it is rooted in trust, expressed in partnership, and bears fruit in thanksgiving.

Parish Share is one of the ways we live out that partnership. It is the way we, as one diocesan family, share the cost of ensuring that ordained ministry is present in every community - including those who could not sustain it alone. It is a practical expression of our unity in Christ and our shared commitment to the mission God has entrusted to us.

CONTINUED

# A letter from your Archdeacons

We know that trust is built through openness, consistency and honesty. We also know that many churches and households are under financial pressure. As you read this booklet, we hope you will see clearly how the cost of ministry is calculated, why Parish Share matters, and how your giving enables the gospel to be proclaimed across our diocese.

Thank you for your partnership in this work. Thank you for your prayers, your leadership, your generosity and your faith. As you consider your Parish Share pledge for 2027, we pray that you will be encouraged by God's faithfulness and strengthened in hope for the future.

**With our prayers and gratitude.**

**Christopher Bryan**

Archdeacon of  
Malmesbury

**Becky Waring**

Archdeacon of  
Bristol

**Adam Beaumont**

Associate  
Archdeacon

"Generosity is not a transaction — it is a response to grace."

**Archdeacons**



## SECTION ONE

# What is Parish Share?

Parish Share is the way churches across the Diocese of Bristol contribute to the shared fund which provides resources for ordained ministry. It is not a payment for the ministry a parish “receives”, nor a charge for clergy services. Instead, it is a gift to ensure that ministry is available **everywhere**, not only where congregations are large or financially strong.

Through Parish Share, every church participates in the shared responsibility of funding:

- stipendiary clergy serving in parishes.
- the training and support of curates.
- the formation of future clergy.

Parish Share is an expression of Christian community and of our Diocesan Transforming Church. Together strategy: each church giving according to its means to proclaim the gospel in every place.



## SECTION TWO

# Why Parish Share matters in 2027

The ministry of our churches is carried out by the whole people of God. Week by week, lay leaders, volunteers, pastoral visitors, youth and children's teams, worship leaders, churchwardens, PCC members and many others offer their gifts in service of Christ. Their ministry is indispensable.

Ordained clergy are part of this ministry ecosystem. Their role is not to replace or overshadow lay ministry, but to **equip, encourage and enable** - teaching the faith, leading worship, offering sacramental ministry, providing pastoral care, and overseeing the shared life of our parishes and benefices. Well-supported clergy strengthen the ministry of the whole church.

Parish Share is how we, as a diocesan family, ensure that this shared ministry can flourish in every community. It enables stipendiary clergy to serve, and it pays for the training of curates and future clergy who will serve the next generation.



## SECTION TWO

# Why Parish Share matters in 2027

In 2025, churches across the Diocese



These numbers represent lives touched, faith nurtured,  
and communities served.

## SECTION TWO

# Why Parish Share matters in 2027

Since 2018, the real value of Parish Share has fallen significantly, while the funds needed to resource the clergy ministry have risen.

**In 2027 we need to raise**

**£6.9m**

To resource ministry across the Diocese of Bristol.

**£6.1m to resource stipendiary clergy across the Diocese**



**£1.4m to train and support curates and ordinands**



We received a grant of £570,000 from the national church to support the lowest income communities which brings the total we need to raise down to £6.9m.

In 2025, parishes generously gave £4.9m to resourcing ministry across the Diocese; if this were repeated in 2027, it would result in a shortfall of around £2m. We have been using Diocesan reserves to cover these shortfalls, but the state of reserves means that they cannot sustain long-term deficits. Trusting one another requires us to be open about these realities and clear about what resourcing the current level of clergy ministry looks like.

**Parish Share is how we meet these challenges together.**

## SECTION THREE

# How the calculation works

The Parish Share formula remains unchanged, but the tone and purpose behind it are important. The calculation is not designed to charge each parish for “its” clergy. Instead, it helps us resource and participate in shared mission and ministry across the Diocese.



### **Ministry contribution**

Each parish shares in the Diocesan-wide effort to provide resources for stipendiary clergy.



### **Community adjustment**

Parishes in areas with higher-than-average household income contribute more; those in lower-income areas contribute less. This reflects our commitment to mutual support.



### **Future ministry**

Each parish contributes 10.5% of its average unrestricted income toward the training of curates and future clergy.



### **Lowest-income community funding**

Targeted support for parishes serving the most deprived communities.



### **Large income adjustment**

Parishes with income more than 150% of the diocesan average contribute an additional 11% of their income.



### **Generous giving adjustment**

No parish is asked for less than it pledged in 2026.

## SECTION FIVE

# What's changed for 2027

Transitional Relief has been removed for 2027. This is because:

- It was not a real fund - any shortfall must be drawn from Diocesan reserves.
- The calculation is more objective without it.
- Removing it makes clear the true level of resources required to sustain the current level of stipendiary clergy ministry.

Instead, each parish will receive, alongside the calculation, a **suggested gift** figure intended as an achievable, realistic contribution after all adjustments are made.

We hope and pray that parishes will be able to respond generously and, where possible, give at or above this level.



## SECTION SIX

# How can PCCs respond

1

### **Read and reflect**

Understand your parish's request and the basis for it. Please contact the Giving & Resources Advisor - [parishshare@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:parishshare@bristoldiocese.org) if you have any questions or if anything is unclear.

2

### **Pray together**

Parish Share is a spiritual decision as well as a financial one.

3

### **Discuss openly as a PCC**

Consider your parish's capacity, your mission priorities, and your commitment to the wider diocesan family.

4

### **Make your pledge**

Please inform us of your 2027 pledge by 31 October 2026.

5

### **Seek support if needed**

If your parish anticipates difficulty, please get in touch with the Giving & Resources Advisor - [parishshare@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:parishshare@bristoldiocese.org). Support is available.

## **Thank You**

Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for your leadership. Thank you for your faithfulness in challenging times. Through Parish Share, you are helping to ensure that the gospel is proclaimed, the sacraments are celebrated, and the love of Christ is made known in every community of our diocese.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership in this shared ministry.



# DIOCESE OF BRISTOL

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## Get in touch

Questions, support and conversations are welcome.

### Giving & Resources Advisor

James Morrey

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