



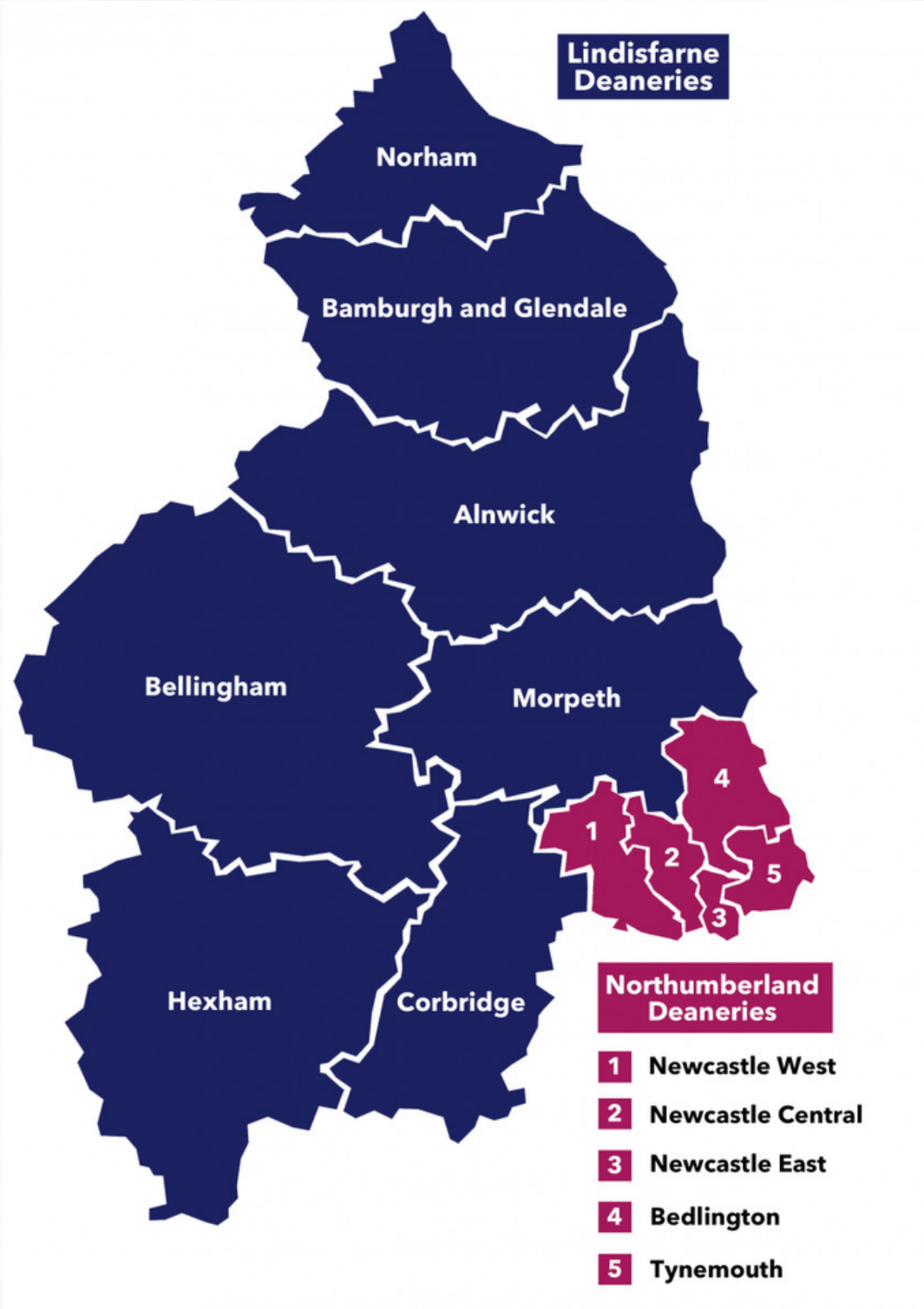
# PARISH SHARE EXPLAINED



Many people ask about Parish Share. These questions often focus on the level of Parish Share, the use of Parish Share and why parishes are asked to contribute towards it.

## So, let's begin what is Parish Share?

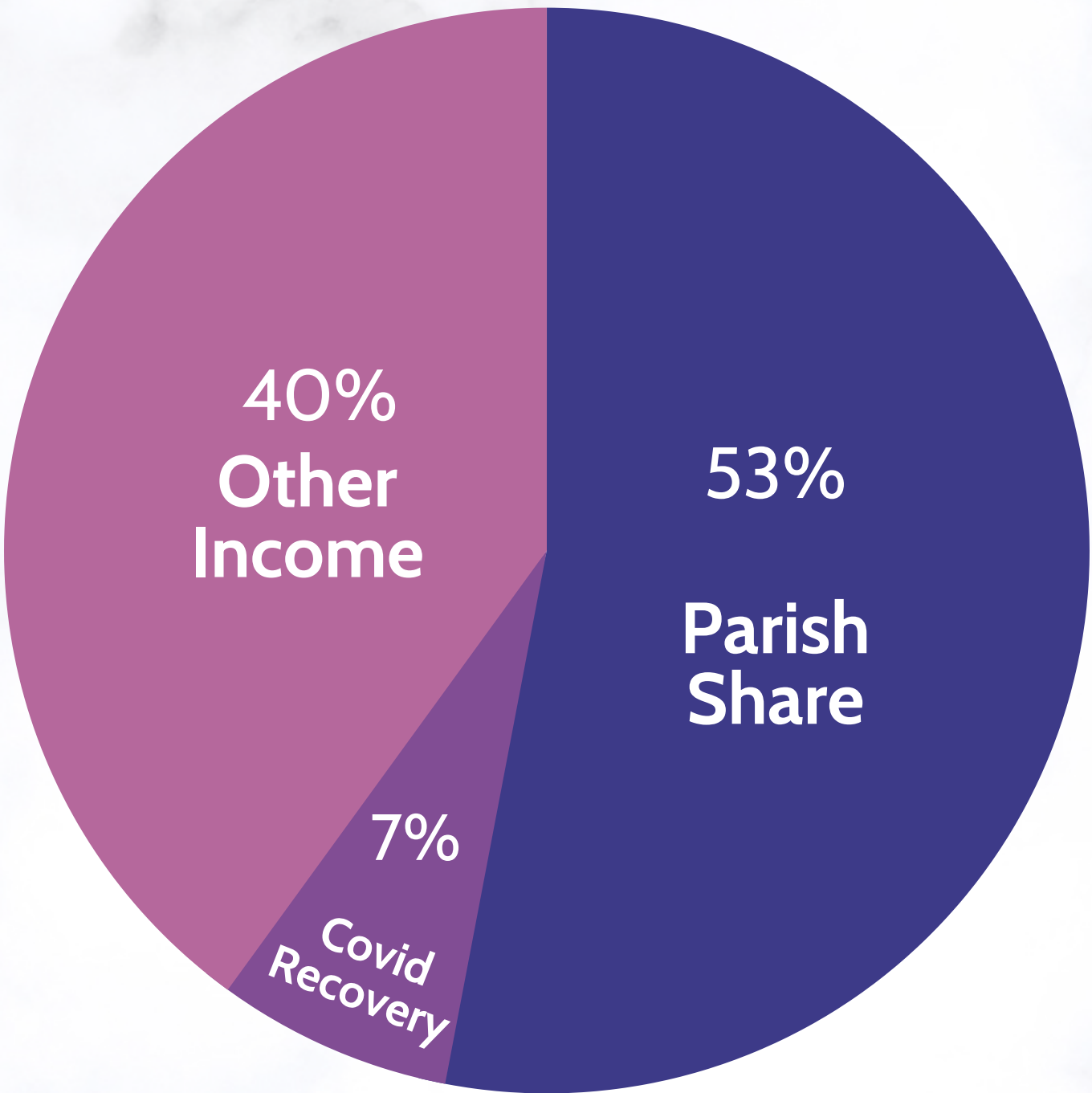
Parish Share is the financial expression of what it means to be part of God's mission in this part of the Church of England. Every year, parishes are asked to support the cost of ministry across this wonderful diocese, a family of 236 churches in 172 parishes in 12 deaneries.



Without the financial support from Parish Share we would not be able to pay for our clergy or provide the support needed for mission and ministry.

**FACT: Did you know, it costs over £7.5m each year to run our diocese?**

In 2022, Parish Share makes up 60% (or £4.5m) of total diocesan income. 53% comes directly from parishes and this is topped up with a 7% diocesan subsidy to assist parishes with ongoing financial recovery post COVID.



Other income is from grants (primarily from the national church), clergy fees (weddings and funerals), rental of property and income from investments.



# What is Parish Share used for?

Parish Share is used to further mission and ministry in each and every parish by helping to fund the cost of ministry. The cost of ministry is the expenditure needed to provide parish ministry which includes support costs, both local (diocesan) and national (wider church). It supports the **ministry we receive today** and the **ministry the parish will receive in future** from those currently in training and those in the process of discerning their future ministry.

**FACT: In the 2022 budget, Parish Share will resource 82 FTE paid parish posts and 18.5 FTE paid curates in training.**



“I find it humbling that my discernment, training and future ministry are funded thanks to the parish share system. To think that someone, somewhere gave, not knowing where the money would be used, but trusting that God would use it for His glory and for the growth of the Church in this place fills me with deep gratitude.”  
**Rosemary New, Assistant Curate, Holy Saviour Tynemouth**



Petertide ordinations 2022

**FACT: Whilst Parish Share currently meets 60% of total diocesan income, 100% of diocesan expenditure is for the benefit of parish ministry.**



## How will the overall budget be spent?

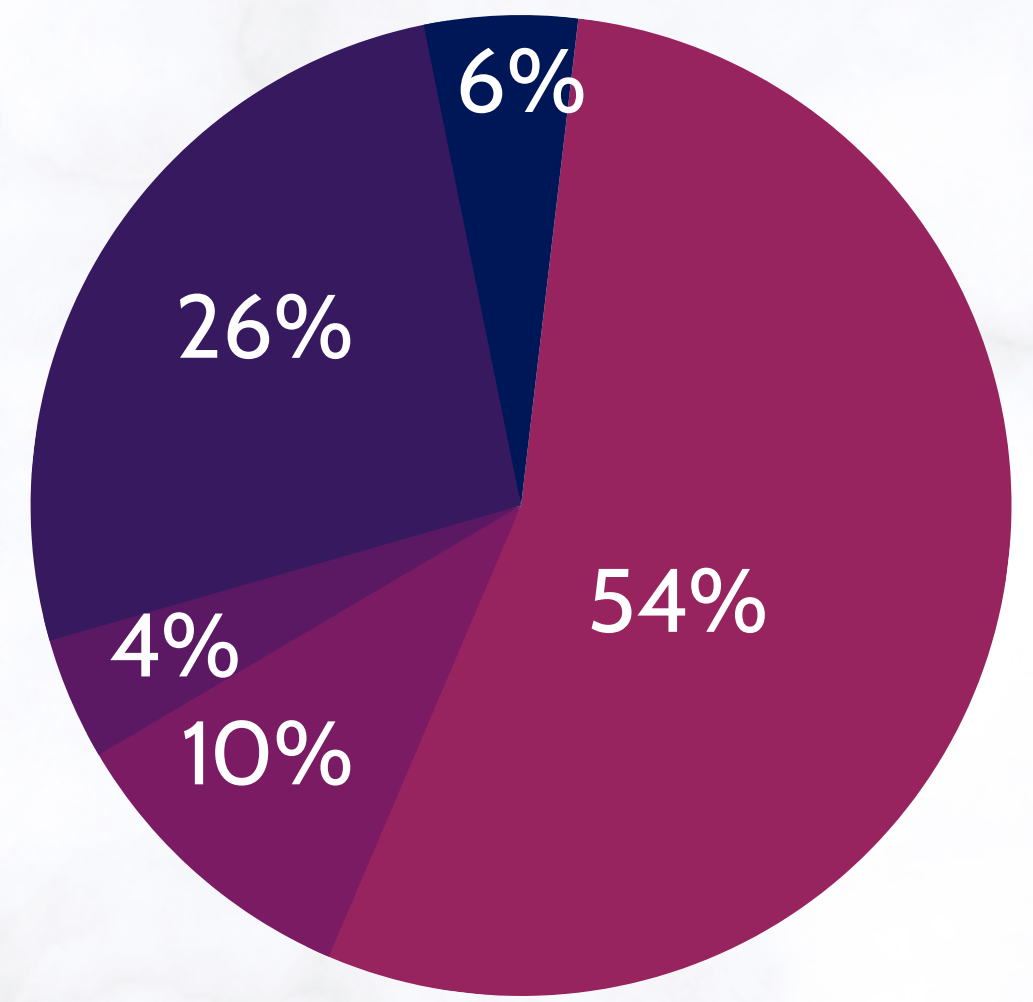
54% Clergy stipend, pension & NI

10% Clergy housing

4% Clergy training, activities & grants

26% Support for parish ministry

6% National Church



## How are diocesan posts funded?

Some posts support ministry right across the diocese. These include our Archdeacons; chaplaincy services; ministry formation, training and development; safeguarding; communications; management of clergy housing and our finances. Such posts are fully or part funded from Parish Share.



A celebration of Lay Ministry at Newcastle Cathedral

**FACT:** Some diocesan posts , often time-limited, are fully or part funded from grants.

Examples of these include projects such as Rural Churches for Everyone and Generous Giving.





## The principle of Parish Share?

It's a fact that some parishes are better off than others. While many are able to meet the full cost of ministry through their contribution to Parish Share, some are only able to meet their ministry costs with the help of others. Thankfully we have each other to share the load, and through the parish share system of mutual support we ask those who can afford to give more to do so, in order that all may receive according to need.

“In our diocese we are interdependent as we are all seeking to bring the love of Christ to every community. It is therefore vital that congregations with greater financial resources should gladly support sister churches where income levels are much lower. The parish share enables this fundamental aspect of our partnership in the gospel.”

**Canon David Kennedy, Vicar of Corbridge**

**FACT: Did you know that in 2021, across the whole of the Diocese, the average parish gift was just over £43 per month? This is before any gift aid is factored in.**

“We are a congregation in Wallsend who benefit greatly from the Parish Share system. Our giving does not cover the full cost of the stipendiary ministry we receive, since income levels here are low. For the past two years we have paid all we can towards Parish Share, and have taken money from our limited Building Fund to do so. We know from experience how important it is to support each other, and to look beyond our own Church.”

**Revd Emma Duff, St John the Evangelist, Wallsend**



Members of St John's, Wallsend taking part in a fundraising pilgrimage up Roseberry Topping



"I am Priest in Charge of two parishes that are rich in many ways, but being in an area classed as deprived, struggle financially. If these parishes had to independently meet their stipendary ministry costs it would be impossible, and they would be without a much needed parish priest. Thanks to LICF and the generosity of wealthier parishes who contribute more than we are able to, through the parish share system, our financial burden is eased. This has a huge impact on parishes such as mine who are less fortunate than others."

**Revd Lee Cleminson, Priest in Charge, Balkwell and Percy Main**

**FACT: The National Church provides support which allows funding to be applied to parishes with the lowest income levels (Lowest Income Community Funding - LICF). It helps to fund the gap in costs along with generosity of other parishes.**



The Baby Bank project, set up by volunteers at St John's, Percy Main, a church supported by LICF

"Giving as generously as possible has always been an integral part of my Christian faith. Sharing whatever resources we have is simply something God teaches us to do. Now a Senior on a fixed income, I still see giving to my local church as one of the very first claims on my income each month. I give through the parish system in the knowledge that I'm supporting the mission and ministry costs associated with helping more people encounter the generous God I know. It really is a privilege."

**Mrs Pamela Spearing, Christ the King Team Parish, Newcastle**



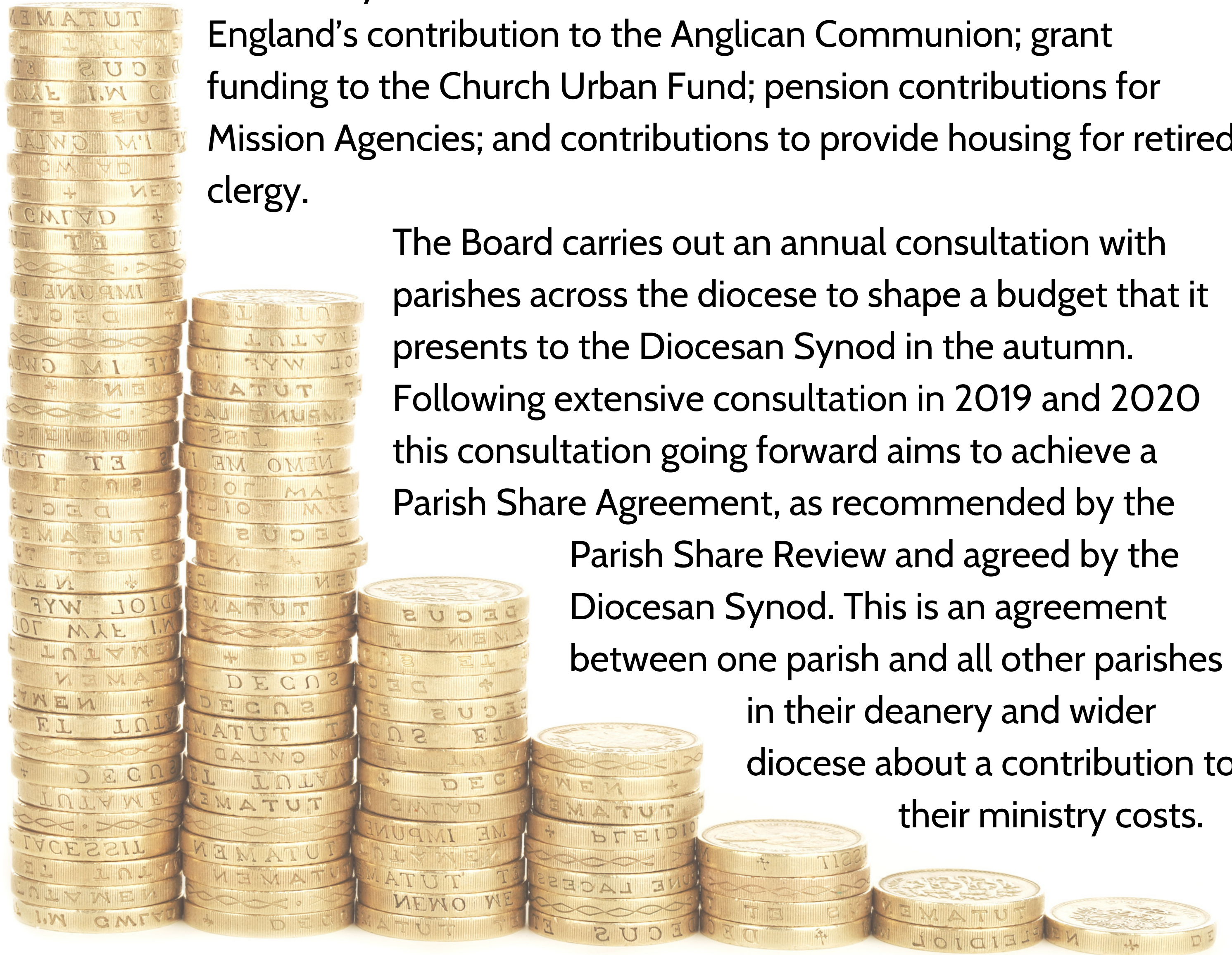
## How is Parish Share calculated?

The Newcastle Diocesan Synod, made up of elected clergy and lay representatives, is responsible for agreeing a budget. The charitable body of the Synod which manages diocesan finances is called the Newcastle Diocesan Board of Finance (the Board). The Board is the legal entity which must raise the income required to meet the expenditure for ministry.

Local support costs include the maintenance and upkeep of the clergy house; the training and development of clergy and lay ministry already in post and the support of those training for ministry; and funding clergy relocations when clergy move to other posts. Support also includes safeguarding, legal structures, communications and financial governance.

National support costs include the cost of training new clergy; the cost of the General Synod and the work it carries out; the Church of England's contribution to the Anglican Communion; grant funding to the Church Urban Fund; pension contributions for Mission Agencies; and contributions to provide housing for retired clergy.

The Board carries out an annual consultation with parishes across the diocese to shape a budget that it presents to the Diocesan Synod in the autumn. Following extensive consultation in 2019 and 2020 this consultation going forward aims to achieve a Parish Share Agreement, as recommended by the Parish Share Review and agreed by the Diocesan Synod. This is an agreement between one parish and all other parishes in their deanery and wider diocese about a contribution to their ministry costs.





The Church Commissioners for England have significant funds to support the mission and ministry of the Church of England. Income they receive supports our mission here in this diocese by;

- paying the stipends for the Bishop of Newcastle, the Bishop of Berwick, the Cathedral Dean and two Cathedral Canons;
- providing the house, office accommodation and staffing costs for the Bishop of Newcastle;
- providing an annual grant to help to support ministry in our low-income communities;
- funding the majority of the costs to establish the Resource Church at St Thomas'; and
- meeting all clergy pension costs for those in ministry up to 1998 (meaning a good proportion of the pension received by our clergy who have already retired is funded by the Commissioners and part of the pension for those who began ministry before 1998, but are yet to retire, will be funded by the Commissioners).

**Why don't the Church Commissioners pay for everything?**

Most clergy are paid a monthly stipend which enables them to exercise ministry without needing to take on another job. In 2022 the basic monthly cost of a full-time stipend, employer's national insurance and a pension contribution is £3,273 (or £39,276 per annum). In addition, rent-free housing is provided to ensure clergy are able to live within the community they are called to serve.

**How are ministry (clergy) costs calculated?**

**Why do we fund Church House?**

Church House at North Shields is a diocesan resource. It accommodates the operational side of the Diocesan Synod alongside other organisations helping our mission and ministry (the Resources Centre, Lindisfarne College of Theology and Education Team serving Church Schools). Church House accommodates meeting and training space to facilitate learning as well as diocesan governance.

**FAQ**



# FAQ

**What happens if we cannot afford to meet our full contribution?**

If your parish is unable to meet its Parish Share then assistance is offered. This starts with a review of the parish accounts to help inform an understanding of the financial position. If a review recommends there are sufficient funds to meet the Parish Share request, the matter is referred back to your PCC. If a review concludes there are insufficient funds then help will be given to agree an achievable Parish Share and support will be given to help the PCC with future financial planning.

**What if we don't make our full contribution?**

If your PCC decides not to meet its full Parish Share the overall consequence is that someone else must pay or fewer paid ministers can be appointed.

**Do we still have to make our Parish Share contribution when we don't have a Vicar?**

A key principle of Parish Share is Christian generosity and mutual support. All parishes experience a vacancy at some point in time and your parish will have been supported by others in your deanery and the wider diocese when you have had a Vicar and they have not. Of course, Parish Share doesn't just fund the ministry you are receiving today but it also helps to fund the training of those who will be providing the ministry in the future.



# How can we grow giving in our Church?

Our Generous Giving team is here to help you grow giving to support a sustainable future for your local mission and ministry. The team can support you with resources, technology and training to help encourage generosity.



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THANK YOU

The parish church would not exist without the generosity of people all across our diocese. It is only through generosity that Parish Share can have a positive effect on reaching communities all across our region. Thank you for your commitment to supporting this common vision.