

PARISH SHARE

EXPLAINED 2025

To all of
God's people,
serving faithfully in
the Diocese of
Newcastle

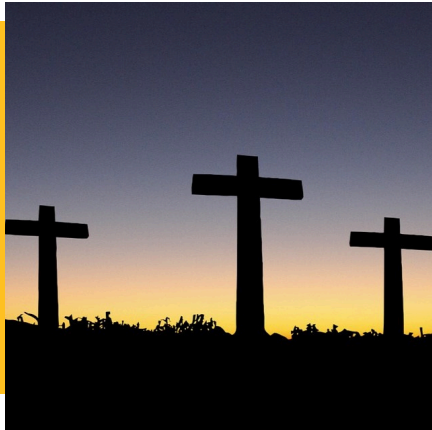


The parish church would not exist without the generosity of faithful giving and a spirit filled desire to share the resources with which we have been blessed. We can be inspired by all this enables; children and youth groups thriving, foodbanks supported, lonely people receiving comfort, the faithful being taught, and the Eucharist celebrated week by week.

We give thanks to God for His ultimate generosity to us, and to all those who give so generously in response to Him.

The principle of Parish Share

Parish Share is the amount of money that each parish is asked to contribute to support the provision of mission and ministry in this part of the Church of England. It is the responsibility of us all to work together to share this cost in order to grow the Kingdom of God in the Diocese of Newcastle. Without Parish Share contributions we would not be able to pay for our clergy or provide the additional support needed to sustain our mission and ministry.



“Giving generously of our time, talents and money has always been an integral part of our Christian lives — simply something God teaches us to do, and ultimately, everything comes from Him. We see giving to church as one of the first claims on our income each month and give through the Parish Giving Scheme knowing that we are supporting mission and ministry costs associated with bringing more people to encounter our generous God. It really is a privilege.

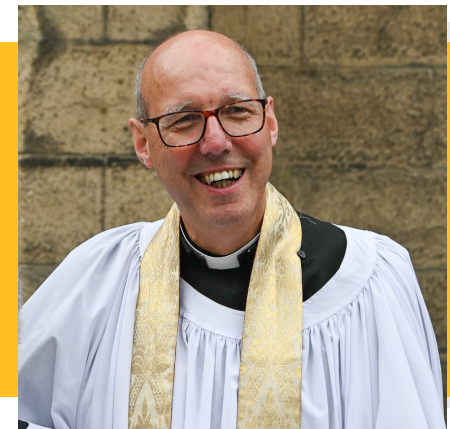
Mr & Mrs B, St Aidan's, Brunton Park

Some parishes are better off than others, but through the Parish Share system we can share the financial load, just as the early Christians did. Parishes that have more, give to support parishes that are only able to meet their ministry costs with the help of others. In this way, **all may receive according to need** rather than ability to pay.

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“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





What is Parish Share used for?



The mission and ministry that Parish Share supports can be thought of as both 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. Ministry expenditure includes both **local** (diocesan) and **national** (wider church) support levels.



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.

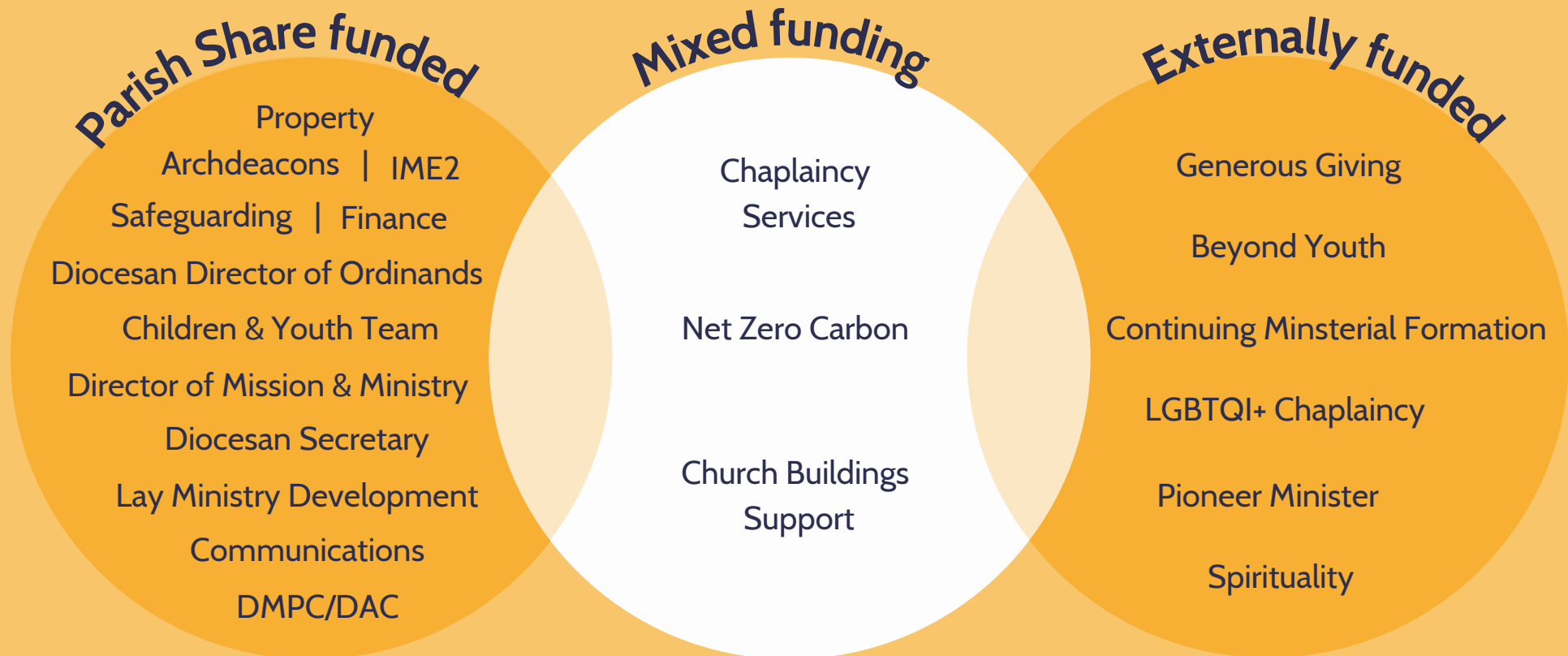


National support costs include the cost of training new clergy, the cost of the General Synod and the work it carries out, the Church of England's contribution to the Anglican Communion, grant funding to the Church Urban Fund, pension contributions for Mission Agencies and contributions to provide housing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

What about diocesan posts?

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

Some diocesan posts, often time-limited, are fully or part funded from other sources.



How does the National Church help towards our 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 Cathedral Canons
- providing the house, office accommodation and staffing costs for the Bishop of Newcastle
- funding the majority of the costs to establish the Resource Church at St Thomas'
- meeting all clergy pension costs for those in ministry up to 1998

Did you know, the National Church also provides annual support which allows funding to be applied to parishes with the lowest income levels, known as **Lowest Income Community Funding (LICF)**. This helps to fund the gap in costs along with the generosity of other parishes.



“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



2025 diocesan budget

The 2025 budget, will resource **71 FTE*** paid parish posts and **19 FTE** paid curates in training.

Whilst Parish Share meets around 57% of total diocesan income, 100% of diocesan expenditure is for the benefit of parish ministry.

This year's **deficit** is forecast to be **£911k**. It must be funded by drawing from our unrestricted reserves.

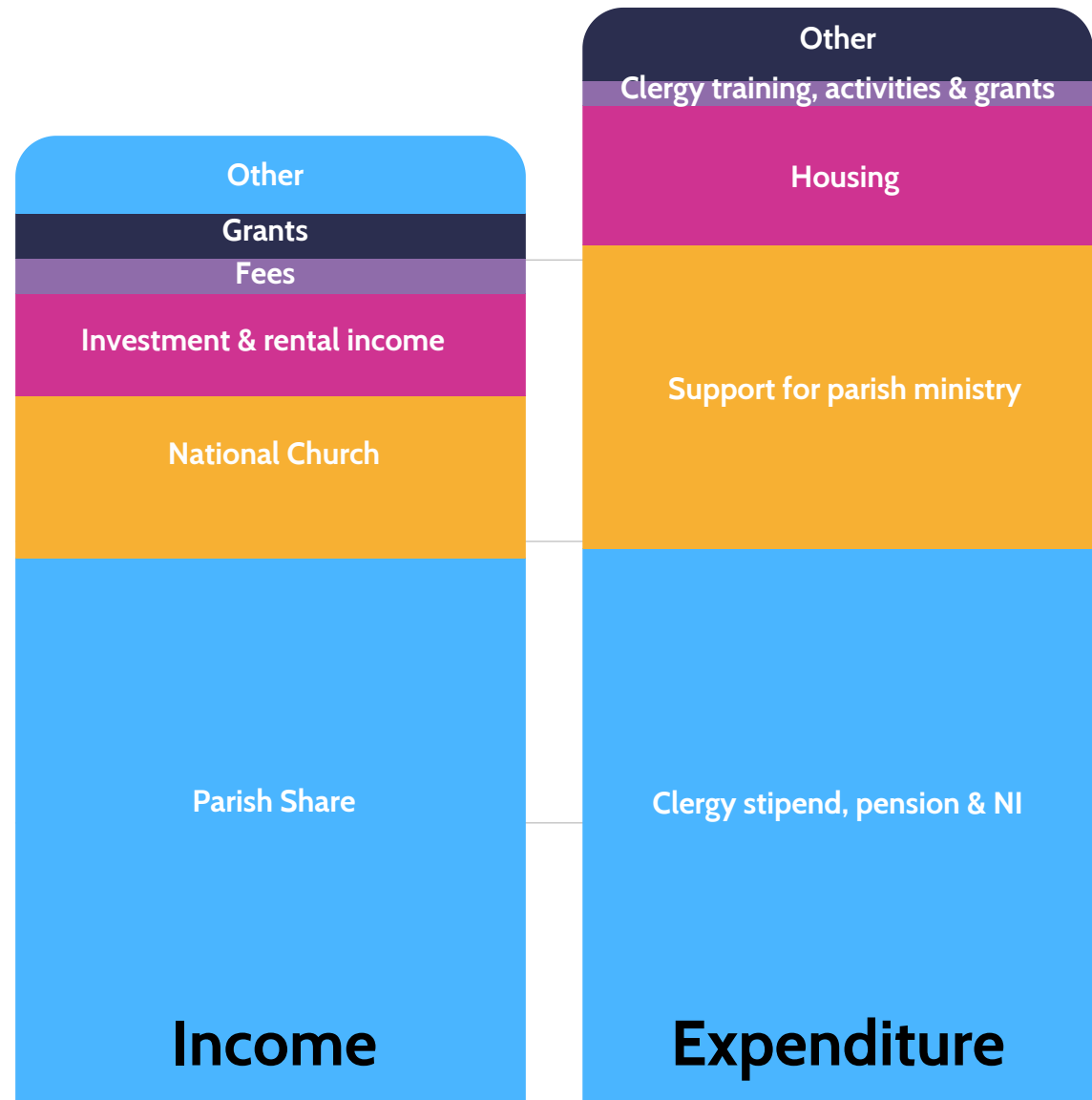
* Assumes a 10-11% vacancy rate on the number of posts agreed during Deanery Planning (80)

£8m

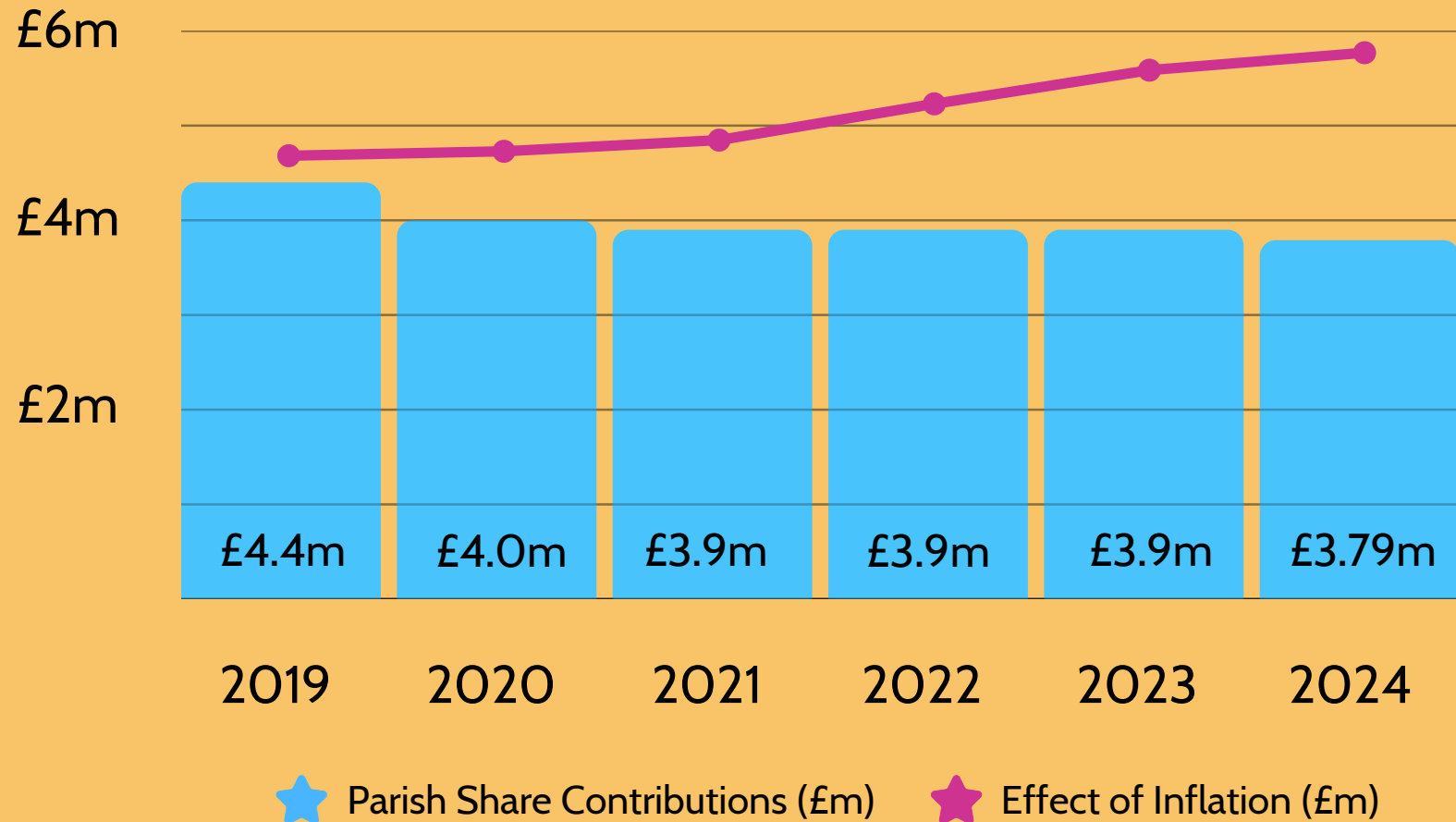
£6m

£4m

£2m



The impact of inflation



In 2023 the average regular gift in the Diocese of Newcastle was just under **£51 per month** (before Gift Aid).

A fall in average gift levels in real terms, coupled with a reduction in the number of regular givers, has contributed to **lower parish receipts year on year**.

How is Parish Share agreed?



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.

Every year, the Board carries out a consultation with parishes across the diocese to shape a budget for the following year. This is then presented to Diocesan Synod in the autumn.

The budget consultation aims to achieve a **Parish Share Agreement** - essentially an agreement between one parish and all other parishes in their deanery, and the wider diocese, about a contribution to their ministry costs.

This approach was recommended by the Parish Share Review Group and agreed by Diocesan Synod, following extensive consultation in 2019/2020.



Frequently asked questions

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.

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.

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.

We want to build up reserves in case of an emergency so can we reduce our Parish Share?

The parable of the talents teaches us that the resources we have been entrusted with should be put to good work, rather than be simply buried in the ground. In the context of Parish Share, we understand this to mean that money we have beyond our immediate needs and reasonable reserves should be spent on mission and ministry in our parish and within the diocese. If a parish not meeting Parish Share (and is therefore subsidised by others), also has large reserves it is legitimate to question whether the right balance of faithfulness and good stewardship is being achieved.



Frequently asked questions

How are ministry (clergy) costs calculated?

Most clergy are paid a monthly stipend which enables them to exercise ministry without needing to take on another job. In 2025 the basic monthly cost of a full-time stipend, employer's national insurance and a pension contribution is £3,463 (or £41,563 per annum). In addition, rent-free housing is provided to ensure clergy are able to live within the community they are called to serve.

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.

How can we grow giving in our church?

The Generous Giving Team are a resource available to all parishes and can help grow giving to underpin a sustainable future for local mission and ministry. The team are able to support you with resources, technology and training to help encourage generosity from a Biblical and practical perspective. They also organise our annual Diocesan Generosity Week which takes place over 8 days, commencing the last Sunday in September, and concluding the first Sunday in October.

The Generous Giving Team can be contacted at generousgiving@newcastle.anglican.org

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

2 Cor 9: 11-12

🔍 Seeking ❤️ Sharing 🤝 Sending