

Parish Share: Overview

1. This document provides a background about changes to the way in which Parish Share is to be allocated. It provides a timeline to help as an aide memoire about the process and it sets out the challenges of implementing something new during the present COVID-19 pandemic.

Parish Share Review Timeline

2. In 1994 the Newcastle Diocesan Synod reaffirmed the formula for allocating Parish Share to the deaneries. The formula was based on three elements:
 - 70% based on unrestricted income
 - 15% based on average Sunday attendance
 - 15% based on the deployment of clergy in the deaneryThe Diocesan Synod used the formula to apportion a sum to each deanery and each deanery used its own method to apportion sums to the parishes.
3. In 2018 Bedlington Deanery passed a motion at a Deanery Synod calling for a review of Parish Share. This motion ([available using this link](#)) was taken to and agreed at a meeting of the Diocesan Synod held on 20th October 2018. A Parish Share Review Group was established in 2019 and the Bishop invited Robin Brims to Chair the Review Group.
4. Robin Brims visited each Deanery in the spring/summer of 2019 and listened to the concerns they held and shared about Parish Share. The consultations helped the Review Group to bring together proposals for a second-round consultations.
5. The second-round consultations were held in four places in early 2020: (i) South Charlton; (ii) Cramlington; (iii) Kingston Park; and (iv) Bardon Mill. All were well attended and helped the Review Group to finalise the Group's recommendations which were presented to and accepted by the Diocesan Synod at a meeting on 27th June 2020. The Review Group's report is available [using this link](#) and are founded on a Parish Share Agreement.

Parish Share Agreement



- a) Mutual support to ensure that parishes serving our most deprived communities do not lose out on ministry
- b) Transparency of PCC accounts
- c) Costs incurred in the provision of parish ministry less the central funds allocated to support ministry in selected parishes. In all this the details of the calculation will be shown and shared with the Deanery, **initially via the Deanery Finance Officer, Area Dean and Lay Chair.**
- d) The start point of a Parish Share Agreement in every year being the previous year's Parish Share Agreement – **This started with the 2020 Parish Share amounts following the consultation in Oct 2019 with the PCCs - where parishes have pledged amounts for 2020.**

In 2020 and subsequent years, the Diocesan Office will provide Deaneries with details of the costs incurred (see c above). Deaneries will move towards a Parish Share Agreement between parishes in the Deanery and Agreement between the Bishop and parishes.

This will result in Parish Share pledges from each parish in the Deanery in 2021 for 2020 and will be revisited every year in a similar manner.

Budget process and Parish Share for 2021

6. Although the pandemic has affected the implementation of the Review Group's recommendations Parish Share for 2021 was agreed in the spirit of the Review Group's recommendations. Recognising the financial challenges in 2020 each and every PCC was consulted about Parish Share for 2021.
7. Using the 2020 Share request as the starting point each PCC was asked to consider what could be offered in 2021. There three options were to offer:
 - (i) more than the 2020 Share request;
 - (ii) the same as the 2020 Share request; or
 - (iii) less than the 2020 Share request with supporting reasons.

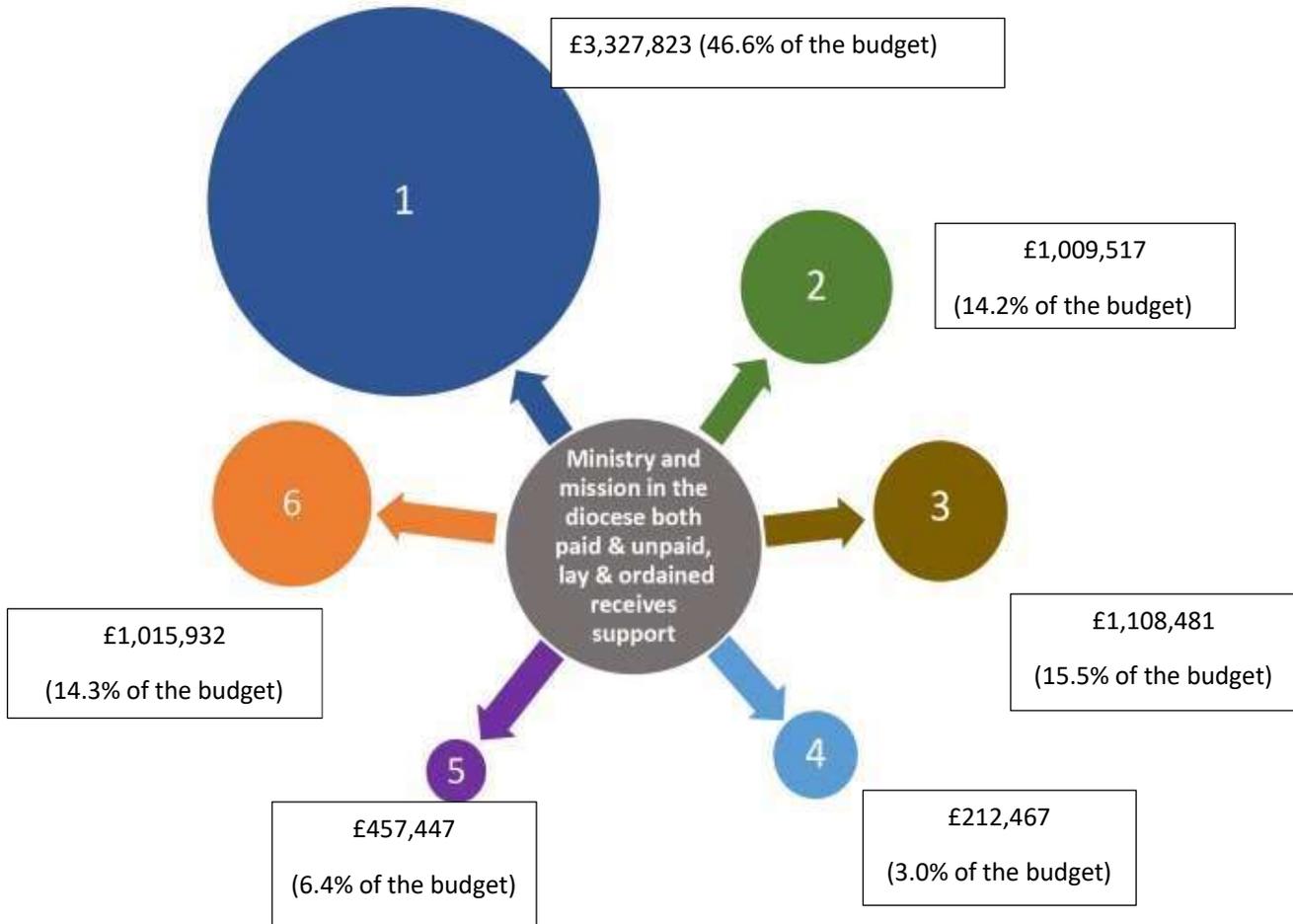
The responses helped the Synod to agree a budget for 2021. Those offering less than the 2020 Share are receiving help from a contingency fund to maintain their Share level in 2021 at the 2020 level.

8. Work is continuing to agree future ministry deployment across the Diocese of Newcastle. This work commenced with Bishop Christine's address to the Diocesan Synod in May 2019. The Address is available [using this link](#). The Bishop's Address recognised the need to work to an affordable budget and for us no longer to aspire to have a clergy cohort that we cannot afford.
9. This work is key to agreeing future Parish Share Agreements because each deanery will be allocated the cost of ministry provided in the deanery. This cost will be net of income received to support ministry in the deanery (such as National Church funding for lowest income communities).
10. All parishes have been sent a statement for Parish Share for 2021 (as a Treasurer you should have received this) and all parishes have been sent a copy of the cost of supporting ministry and mission in the Diocese based on the 2021 budget. This is included at **ANNEX A** and the split is based on the recommendations of the Parish Share Review Group.

Shane Waddle

Diocesan Secretary, 16th February 2021

This is an extract from the Parish Share Review Group’s Report. It sets out the cost of supporting ministry and mission in the Diocese. The size of the circles represents the proportion of the budget spent in each area. We have mapped the six areas to the proposed budget. In this example the overall budget is £7,131,667 with a Parish Share request of £4,496,184.



1. For those in paid ministry we need to pay a **stipend and pension contribution**.
2. For those provided with **housing** we undertake maintenance and repairs, refurbishments and staff our housing team.
3. **Training and future ministry** - staff to support vocation, discernment and post ordination training and our contribution to national training costs.
4. **Development** such as ministry development and staff to support ministry development.
5. **Resourcing** such as Children and Youth, Lay Development, Generous Giving, Social Justice, Task Groups.
6. **Admin & Legal:** Church House; finance; communications; safeguarding; buildings support DAC/DMPC; Human Resources; contributions to national Church.

of which 68% are support costs and 32% are governance and national costs