

**Today's church paying  
for today's ministry  
a new Share system**





**“I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need.”**

2 CORINTHIANS, CHAPTER 8, VERSE 13 – 14

# A new Share system for today's church

The new Share system is open about the true cost of being Church in the diocese of Salisbury today. With diminishing assets and a reduced number of regular worshippers, the old system was no longer fit for purpose, parish treasurers reported.

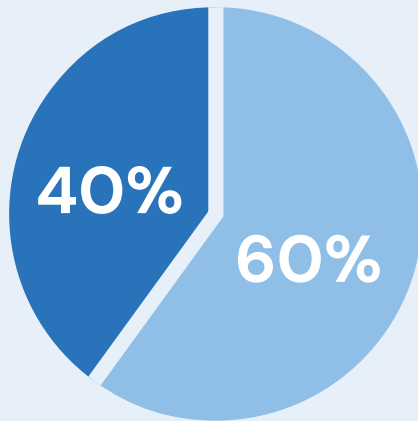
Making Jesus known, our new vision as a diocese, is rooted in evangelism – sharing our faith with others and growing new disciples. In order to grow through discipleship and outreach, we need to be committed to paying for and sustaining today's Church. In past decades, assets and historic investments have been able to bridge any financial shortfalls, but now today's Church needs to pay for today's ministry.

The new system is committed to being simple and realistic and rooted in mutual support: so that those who have a little more can help those who have a little less.

Sharing our resources and supporting each other through Share is vital if we are to continue to Make Jesus Known in this and future generations.

## How will it work?

The new share system, which will come in from January 2025. At its simplest the system, takes 60% of the annual amount to be raised through Share and allocates that to benefices according to the ministry deployed there and takes the remaining 40% and divides that by the number of people who actually take part in the life of the churches in the Diocese.



The total cost of paying for ministry and mission in the Diocese will continue to be subsidised by income from investments and grants, but the remainder will be the total Share request each year.

# FAQs

## **1. Will our Share costs go up?**

For some parishes, meeting the true cost of being the Church will mean a rise, but there will be a four-year transition period to ease that in. For a third of benefices, Share requests will fall.

## **2. What happens if we can't pay the new amount?**

A transition period will help all those affected by a rise, and some will be able to apply for a relief fund to help. Fundraising support and grant advice is available from Anna Hardy and her team to support those trying to raise money. Email [anna.hardy@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:anna.hardy@salisbury.anglican.org)

## **3. Does our Share pay for the Bishop's house and the upkeep of the Cathedral?**

No. the Bishops and Cathedral Canons are paid for by the Church Commissioners, who also pay for the Bishop's House. The Cathedral raises its own running and maintenance costs. Share does pay for all ministry and mission in the diocese, and some of the associated support costs. The diocese does not get any money from the government towards its work.

## FAQs

### **4. Why should some of our Share support others if we are struggling to pay?**

Mutual support is about those who can, giving a little more to help those who have a little less, so ministry can be offered across the diocese. In the Parable of the Sower Jesus shows God's extravagant generosity in scattering the seed indiscriminately and Saint Paul reminds us that one person may sow, another water and yet another may see the fruit - because it is God that gives the growth.

**Scan the QR code to find out more information.**





**Making  
Jesus  
Known**

My own faith was nurtured in this diocese, and I am so grateful for the clergy and lay people whose generosity and discipleship encouraged me. We all want this for our children and grandchildren. Our new Share system will enable us to meet the needs of today and grow the Church of the future.

**Thank you for your partnership  
in Making Jesus Known.**

*+ Stephen Lake*

**The Rt Revd Stephen Lake  
Bishop of Salisbury**



**Making  
Jesus  
Known**