

Parish Share 2026

What it means for you and your church



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

A letter from Jane Pleace



As we look ahead to 2026, I want to thank you for all you do to sustain the life and mission of our parishes. Your generosity through Parish Share is costly and sacrificial, and we do not take it for granted. It is a profound sign of God's kingdom at work, enabling ministry, mission, and care across the diocese.

We know these are uncertain times. Rising costs of food and energy, and the pressures on families, add strain to parish life. I recognise this reality and want us to work together in a culture of transparency and accountability as we navigate the next few years.

Alongside our new Interim Director of Finance, Graham Melia, I am committed to addressing the deficit position in this diocese. This will mean some difficult decisions, but our goal is clear: wise

and careful stewardship of our shared resources and the highest level of support for parishes. Accountability to one another in the use of money is essential, and we will model that centrally while encouraging it locally.

In 2026, we will launch *Wholehearted* resources to help us talk about money in a more joyful and confident way, learning from Jesus and reminding one another that all things come from God. In doing so, let's keep our hearts focused on bringing about the Kingdom of God here in the Diocese of Chester.

With gratitude and every blessing,

Jane Pleace

Diocesan Secretary and Chief Executive

What is Parish Share?

Parish Share is the amount of money that your parish is asked to contribute to pay for mission and ministry, including clergy stipends and their housing. This leaflet explains how the costs of mission and ministry are worked out and what those costs are for 2026. The Parish Share that you are asked to pay is calculated using a formula which considers whether your clergy are full time or part time and where your parish is situated socio-economically using the 2021 census information. It also takes into account our shared responsibility to support parishes in areas of deprivation. There's more information about how this is calculated in the Parish Share section of the Chester Diocese website.

Where does the money go?

The ministry and mission of The Church of England is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give through their own parish church. The cash donations in the offertory and the regular payments that you make through your bank account impact the financial health and the mission of your own parish church and are also closely linked to those of Chester Diocese.

Parish Share contributes towards:



Clergy



Clergy
Housing



Clergy
Training



Parish
Support

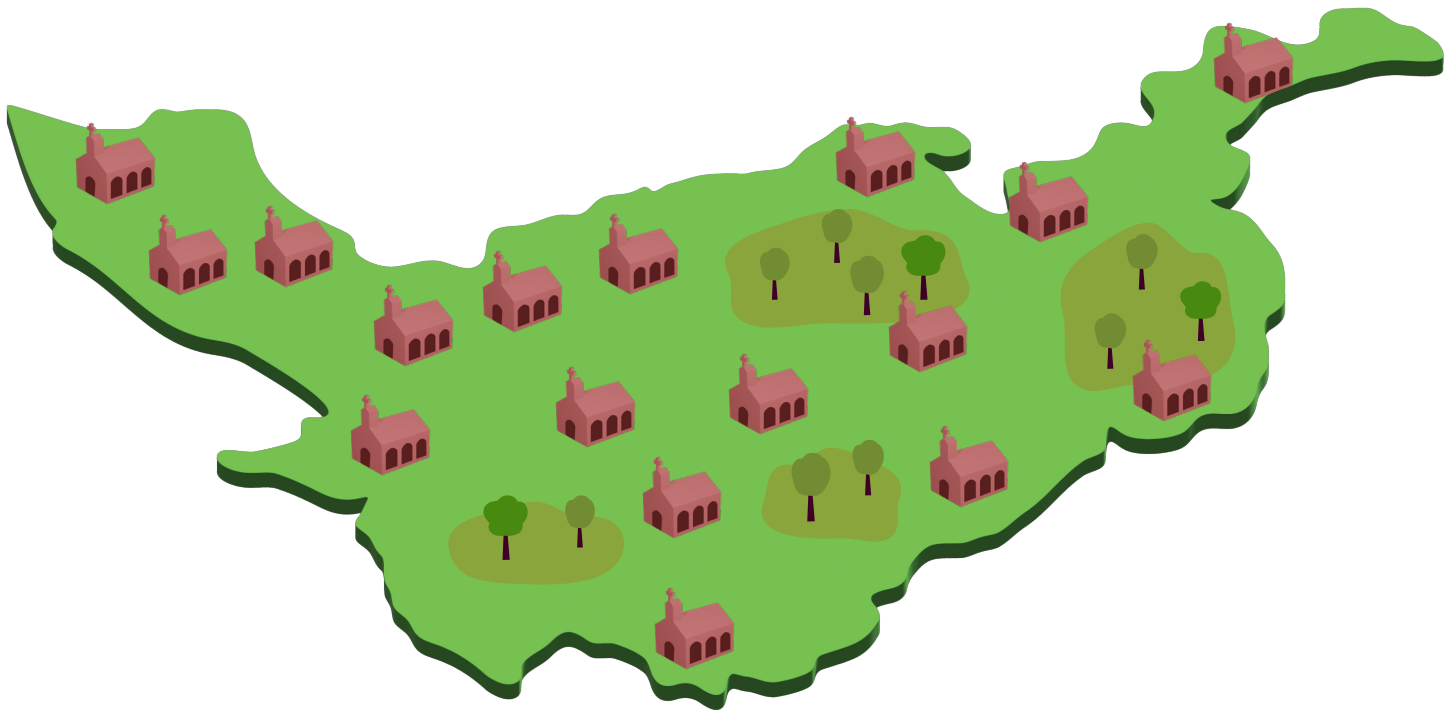


Wider Mission
& Outreach

Thanks to your support, in churches across our Diocese:

- † Communion is celebrated
- † The Gospel is preached
- † Bereaved families are comforted
- † School assemblies take place
- † Baptisms and weddings are ministered
- † People are shown the love of Christ by our pastoral presence in every community

All because of YOU!



What Parish Share Means

The money you give each week, whether in the collection plate or through your bank, funds the work of your clergy and supports ministry across the Diocese of Chester. Every penny matters. Parish Share ensures that every parish, regardless of its individual wealth, is resourced for mission and ministry. That's what Parish Share is all about: every church gives, and every church receives, so that together we can transform lives and communities; together in Christ, sharing hope.

**Speaking about
Parish Share,
Bishop Mark
says; "Thank you,
because it changes
lives".**



Parish Share Support and Future Planning

As part of the budget meeting of Bishops Council on 1 December, it was agreed that parishes with unpaid Parish Share commitments dating from before 2024 will no longer be required to make up these missed payments.

All outstanding amounts will be removed from the balance sheet up to that date. Looking ahead, the ability of a parish to meet its Parish Share will be an important factor when considering future clergy support, whether that means a full-time post or the number of hours available.

Parish Share is not just about covering costs; it is an indication of what a parish can realistically afford in the years to come. This helps us plan wisely and ensures sustainable ministry across the diocese.



Parish Share Ongoing Support

As part of our commitment to open and transparent communication and providing high quality support we will ...



Listen to each parish's local context and financial situation



Work together with you where you are facing financial challenges



Help with Stewardship advice, guidance, and signposting additional resources

Supporting our vision in 2026

Wholehearted Parish Resources Coming in 2026

Talking about money as part of discipleship can feel challenging - but it matters. Parish Share isn't just the responsibility of the treasurer or the vicar; it's something we all share. Together, we need to understand why we give, what we give, and where that money goes.

Jesus didn't avoid conversations about generosity. He taught it and lived it. His life showed the ultimate paradox: giving up everything to gain everything.

That's why, in 2026, we'll be introducing **Wholehearted**, a set of resources designed to help churches speak confidently and openly about Parish Share. This package will make it easier to have honest, transparent conversations about giving and how it supports our shared mission.

Together our generosity supports



336 Churches



1,830 Baptism & Thanksgivings



600 Marriages



212 Houses



205 Stipendary Clergy



2,890 Funerals

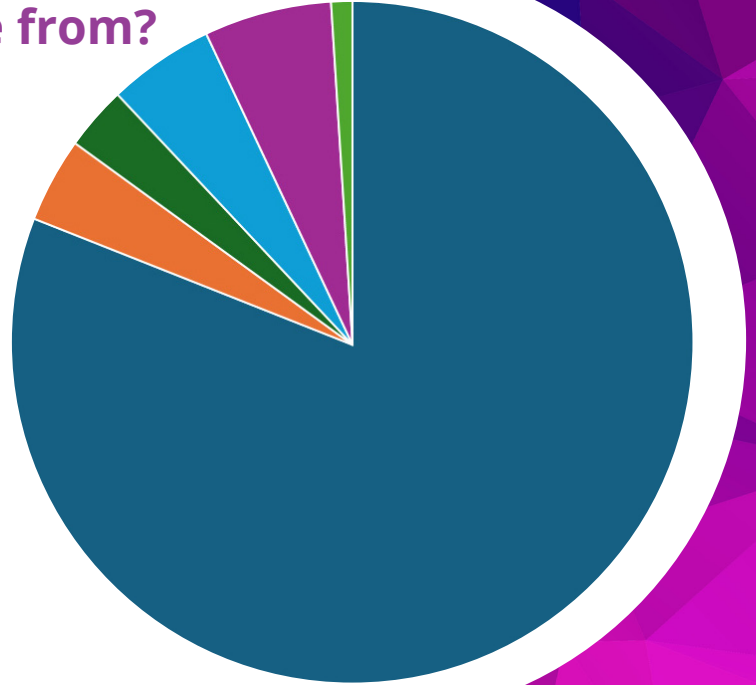
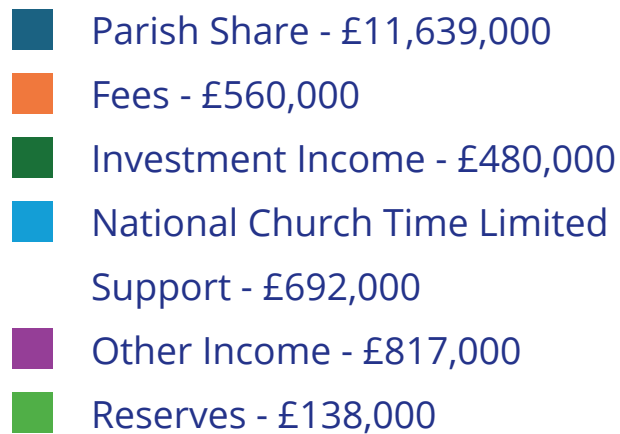


30,000 Worshipping Community

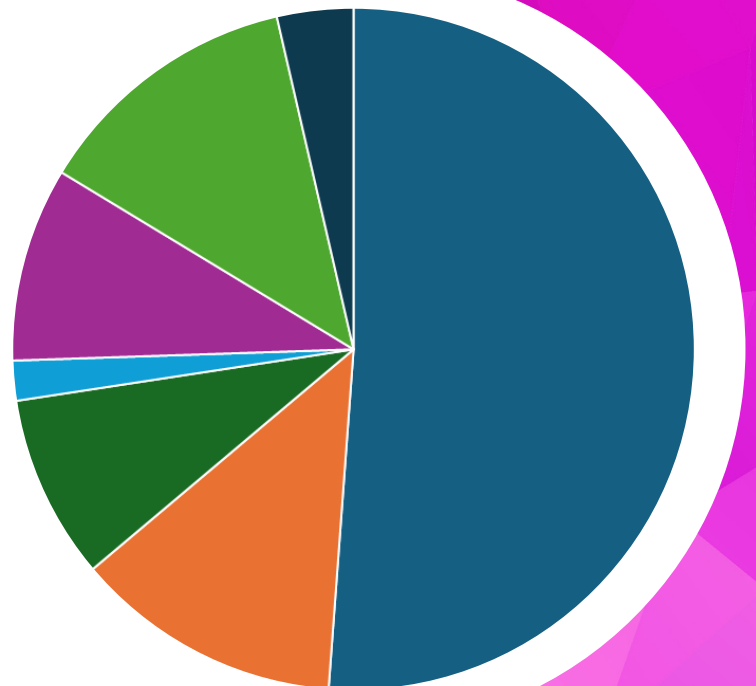
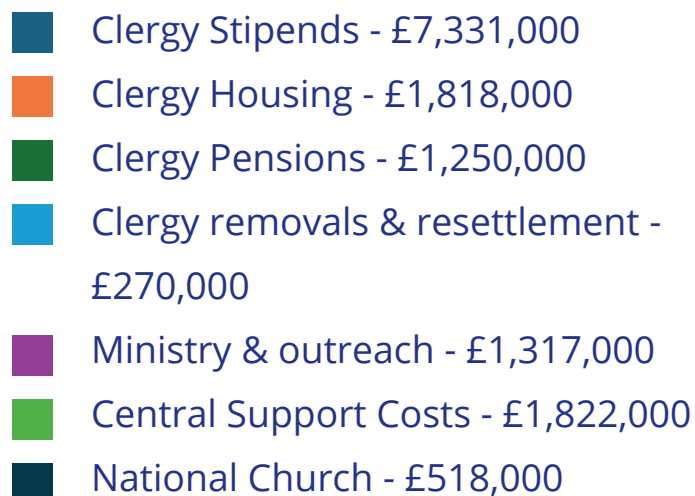


How is the money managed?

Where does the money come from?



Where is the money spent?



Thank you for your generosity

With your continued support we can achieve our shared vision, Together in Christ, sharing hope: blessing the 1.5 million people across Chester Diocese who have not heard the Good News of Jesus.

Further resources

You can download copies of this leaflet from the support section of the Diocese of Chester website. Printed copies can also be ordered by contacting parishshare@chester.anglican.org

Contact us

If you have any queries please contact the Finance Department using the email: parishshare@chester.anglican.org

If you'd like to find out more, please search for Parish Share on our website.

If you are struggling to give your Parish Share please contact the Finance team or your Archdeacon.



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www.chesterdiocese.org