

Assessment of Common Fund for 2018, incorporating the former “How do we decide?”

The function of the Common Fund is to be the primary source of funding for the provision of ministry across the Diocese. The Common Fund system is intended to apportion, in an equitable and understandable way, the contribution being requested from each parish.

The calculation for each parish is made in two stages. Stage 1 calculates the sum attributable to each parish, being the equivalent of 10% of its investment income. Stage 2 calculates the sum attributable to each parish resulting from its declared participant numbers, adjusted by the parish’s socio-economic banding, and a church buildings allowance. The amount assumed per participant within Stage 2 is calculated so that the total requested from stages 1 and 2 equals the Common Fund budget.

1) Assessment based on investment income

Assessments will include an amount equal to 10% of investment income received from all sources (normally the figures entered in box 10 of the annual “Return of Parish Finance”). Please note that it is only the income from such sources that is assessed, and not the capital value of the investment itself. Each year the Parish Finance Returns are validated against the Annual Accounts to confirm the accuracy of the investment income.

Where a parish is undertaking a significant specified capital project, it may apply to the Assets Group for any income arising from funds, which are restricted to the project, to be excluded from the calculation. Parishes must apply on a form available from the Finance Team at the Old Deanery and return it to the Diocesan Office no later than 30 June 2017.

2) Assessable Participants

The most significant factor in your parish’s Common Fund assessment is the number of participants, which you are asked to declare as accurately as possible on a Participation Survey Form. The assessment for 2018 will use the average number of participants for 2015, 2016 and 2017.

A. Please use the following criteria to determine those who should be counted as participants:

Line 1A of the Participation Survey Form

- those who think of your Church as their principal place of worship;
- those who are aged 18 or over;
- those who would normally attend Sunday or midweek services, or a “Fresh Expression of Church” at least once a month;
- those who lead worship in your church (although a minister may be apportioned across a number of churches);
- those who are temporarily away, for example on holiday or business, who consider themselves to be full participants in the life of your Church;
- those who have joined your church in the last year from another church, and are not new to Christian faith;
- those who are new to the Christian Faith since your last annual return (although an equivalent allowance will be made; see section B below).

The definition of what constitutes a “Fresh Expression of Church” has caused much confusion in previous years. We need to be sure that everyone is including people involved with Fresh Expressions of Church in a consistent manner, but we also need to make sure that these meet the criteria to be considered as such. For this reason we have produced (at page 6) the criteria that should be applied when determining whether to include people involved with these groups. The definition is a bit technical, so you may need to consult with other leaders within your church/parish to determine whether it is a Fresh Expression.

Line 1B of the Participation Survey Form

- those who are ill and unable to come to church;
- those who receive home communion and consider themselves a member of your church; and
- those who live in a nursing, care, or residential home and consider themselves a member of your church.

B. New or returning to the Christian Faith

Line 3 of the Participation Survey Form

- enter those who are new or returning to the Christian Faith since your last annual return. They are included in the number on the Participation Survey Form at 1A, but also entered at 3 for deduction from the total. The object of including the number in two places is to see clearly the number of those new or returning to the Christian Faith, rather than simply excluding them. The aim of the deduction is to avoid any

perceived disincentive to growth. You should not include people just because they have moved into your parish in the previous 12 months, unless they meet the above criteria.

C. Undergraduate students living away from home

Line 4 of the Participation Survey Form

- enter those who are undergraduate students living away from home, where the number included in your participant figure is **5 or greater**. They are included in the number on the Participation Survey Form at 1A, but also entered at 4 for deduction from the total.

D. Please use the following criteria to determine those who should *not* be counted as participants:

- those who are visitors — holidaymakers, baptism parties, etc.;
- those who consider their 'home' church to be another part of your Benefice or Mission Community. Please pass their names to the relevant Churchwardens so they are included in the correct church's figure;
- those who receive ministry from, but have no other connection with, your church. For example, residents of nursing, care, or residential homes who receive Holy Communion because the home is in the parish, but who do not consider themselves to be participants in the life of your church;
- each person should only be counted once, irrespective of the number of services they attend;
- if you are uncertain which is the individual's principal place of worship, ask him or her.

E. Other points of reference

- your last three declared participation figures are shown on an enclosed deanery summary;
- your church may hold a list of names, of those who attend regularly, to which you can refer;
- the participation figure will normally be greater than the attendance at a typical service, given that even the most committed participants are unlikely to attend on every occasion;
- your parish's electoral roll is not necessarily a good indicator of participation, although it may provide a useful list of people to think about.

3) Socio-economic adjustment

This part of the assessment places each parish in one of 13 socio-economic bands, based on the English Indices of Deprivation for 2010. The band for your parish will determine the amount requested per assessable participant. The Indices of Deprivation are produced by the government and adjusted by the Archbishops' Council Statistics Department to match ecclesiastical parishes. They measure the degree of deprivation in parishes from 0 (no deprivation) to 100 (total deprivation), based on statistics covering:

- Employment
- Income
- Education, skills and training
- Living environment
- Barriers to housing and services
- Health deprivation and disability
- Crime

Band A covers parishes with a score of 0 to 14; thereafter band B covers parishes with a score of 15 to 19, band C from 20 to 24 and so on. Bands B to M are based on band A, with a discount of 5% between each band, as set out in the following table:

<u>Score</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Weighting</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Weighting</u>
Under 15	A	100%	45 – 49	H	65%
15 – 19	B	95%	50 – 54	I	60%
20 – 24	C	90%	55 – 59	J	55%
25 – 29	D	85%	60 – 64	K	50%
30 – 34	E	80%	65 – 69	L	45%
35 – 39	F	75%	70 and over	M	40%
40 – 44	G	70%			

The score for each parish is rounded up to the next whole number. Thus, for example, a parish with a score of 19.1 will be rounded up to 20, thus placing it in a lower socio-economic band.

If a parish believes that its score is unrepresentative of its congregation, because the profile of its congregation differs significantly from that of the civil population, it can appeal to the Assets Group to have its Band changed by up to one place. The parish would need to demonstrate that the alleged divergence from the score is sufficient to justify a change of Band. However, it should be remembered that within the Church of England in Devon many congregations will have an older age profile than the civil parish in which they are located, and an appeal on that basis alone would be unlikely to be successful. For this year any appeals must be received at the Old Deanery by 30 June 2017.

4. Church buildings allowance

In recognition that church buildings need to be maintained - and the fewer the participants, the greater this burden becomes, an allowance of £2,000 is made in respect of each licensed place of worship, which is maintained at the expense of the PCC.

5. Minimum Allocation

Notwithstanding any of the details in sections 1 to 4 above, there will be a minimum assessment of £250.

This document is also available on the Diocesan website at:

<http://www.exeter.anglican.org/documents/resources/commonfund>

If you need further help please phone 01392 272686 and ask for the Finance Team.

Fresh Expressions of Church

A fresh expression of church is a new gathering or network that engages mainly with people who have never been to church. There is no single model, but the emphasis is on starting something which is appropriate to its context, rather than cloning something that works elsewhere.

Over 3,000 of these new forms of church now exist in almost every denomination and tradition in the UK. Fresh expressions of church:

- serve those outside church;
- listen to people and enter their culture;
- make discipleship a priority;
- form church.

Definition

A more formal working definition is that:

A fresh expression is a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church.

- *It will come into being through principles of listening, service, incarnational mission and making disciples;*
- *It will have the potential to become a mature expression of church shaped by the gospel and the enduring marks of the church and for its cultural context.*

Is it a fresh expression of church?

A phrase like 'fresh expression of church' can be vague and unclear. Sometimes the label is used to cover almost anything - even a new church noticeboard! But the important thing is intention: When a new mission project or group begins, what is the intention?

A fresh expression of church is not:

- an old outreach with a new name ('rebranded' or 'freshened up');
- a bridge project, to which people belong for a while before going to 'proper' church - some people do end up moving into a more traditional church, others see the fresh expression as their church, while others again have a foot in both.

If the intention is to work towards establishing a new community or congregation especially for those who have never been involved in church (un-churched) or once were, but left for whatever reason (de-churched), then it is a fresh expression of church in the making. A fresh expression of church like this may look very different to traditional church. If, though, the intention is to do mission better or more imaginatively in order to attract people to an existing church, it isn't a fresh expression (although doing that is always an excellent idea). The aim of a fresh expression is not to provide a stepping stone into existing church, but to form a new church in its own right. So it is important to decide the direction you are heading in, before you begin the journey.