



COMMON FUND EXPLAINED

DIOCESE
OF EXETER
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
IN DEVON



pray



grow



serve with joy

Introduction

The Diocese of Exeter is part of the Church of England and covers the whole county of Devon. Young and old from all walks of life come together in our churches to pray, to grow disciples and to serve others with joy. Committed Christians give of their time, talents and resources to see God's kingdom built in their local communities.

We are a large, diverse, diocesan family. We seek to share what we have with each other and those in need.

In the Acts of the Apostles we read about the passionate commitment of the first disciples: 'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and held everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.'

(Acts 2: 42-45). These verses inspire us to live lives of generosity and sacrificial, mutual support. Each year parishes are asked to make a financial contribution to the Common Fund to meet the cost of mission and ministry across Devon.

In this leaflet you can find more information about this. Thank you for your discipleship and your generosity.



+ Paul Exon

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Common Fund calculation

A number of factors are taken into account when Common Fund contributions are calculated so that the allocation is as fair as it can be across the whole diocesan family. The same formula is used for all parishes, whether they are large or small, rural or urban.

The diocese considers:

1. The size of your church family (but not counting children, adults who are new to the church, those who are no longer able to attend, or undergraduates).
2. Local deprivation. An adjustment is made to take into account local levels of poverty and wealth so that richer areas help poorer ones. This adjustment is based on the Government's Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

Allowances are then made for each church building and parishes with more than 200 people.



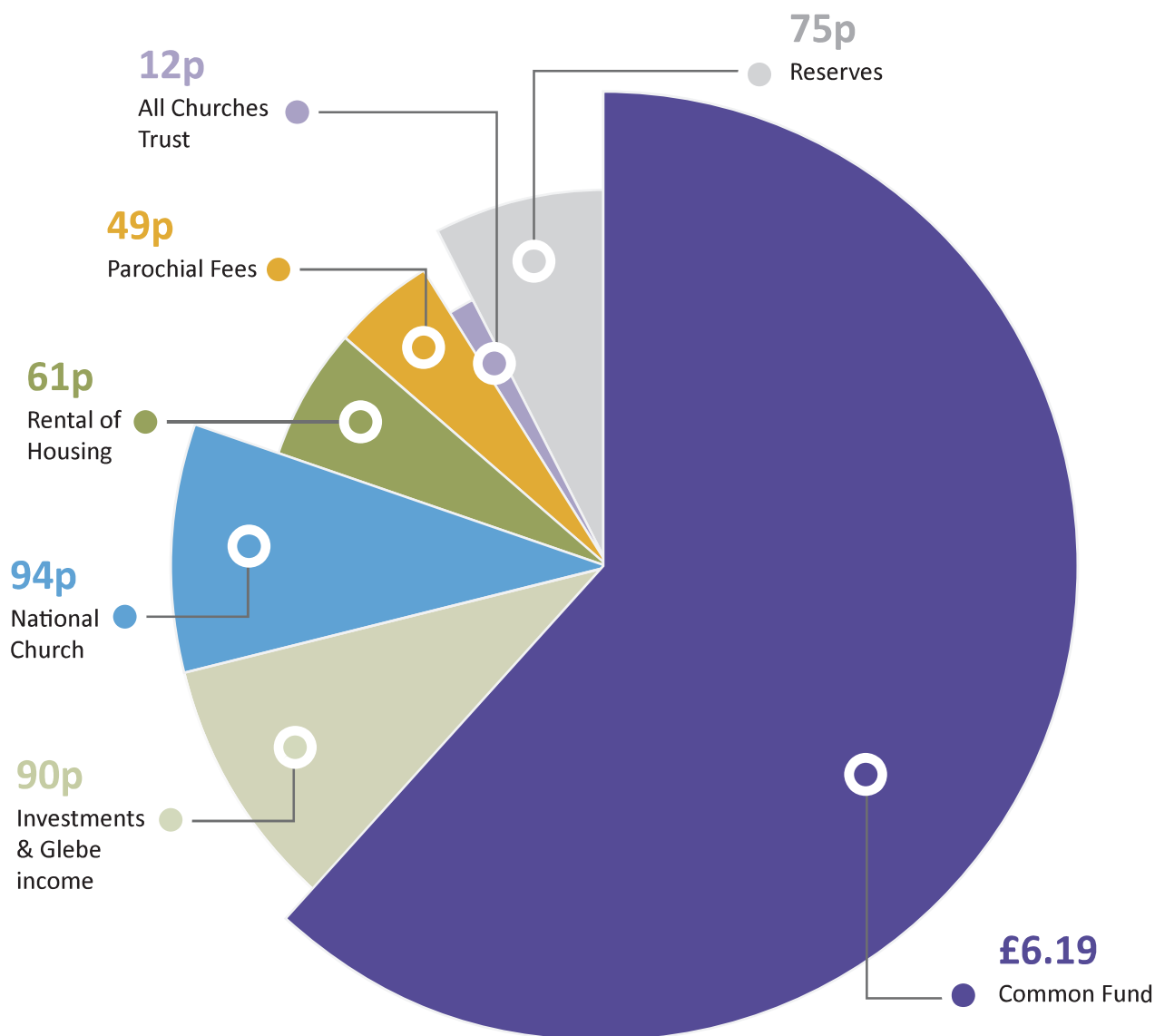
Every good and perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of the heavenly
lights, who does not change like shifting
shadows.

James 1:17

Diocesan income and expenditure

Where do we get our money from?

Every £10 we receive is made up as follows:

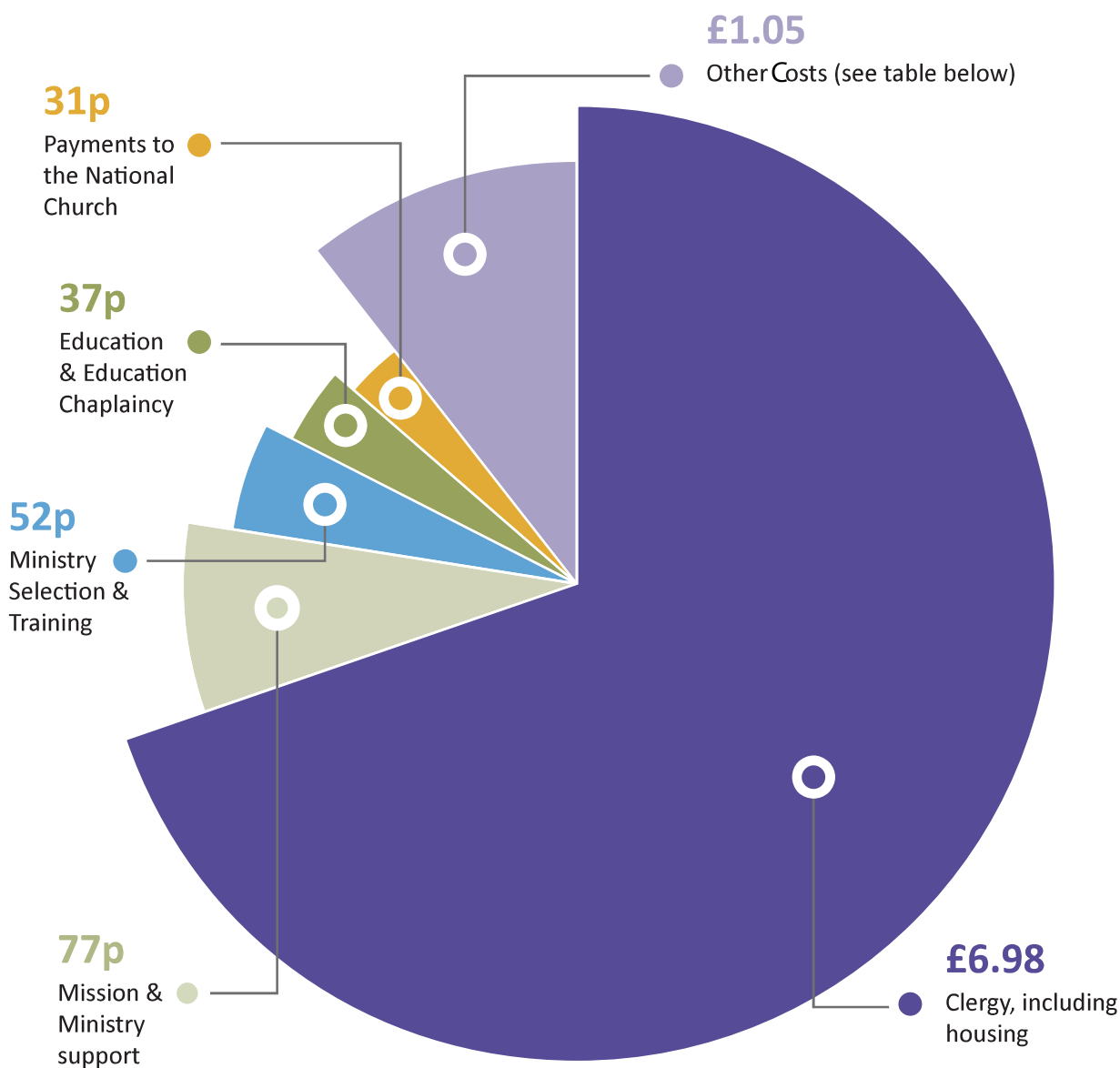


**Total
income:
£13.243m**

**plus £1.075m
contribution from
reserves = £14.318m**

Where do we spend the money we receive?

Every £10 we receive is spent as follows:



**Total expenditure:
£13.718m**

plus £0.6m contribution to the clergy pension fund deficit

Breakdown of 'Other Costs'

18p	Diocesan Management & Administration Services
17p	Finance
12p	Synod/Board/Committees
11p	Communications
10p	Safeguarding of vulnerable people
8p	Human Resources
7p	Diocesan Advisory Committee
6p	Diocesan Registrar/Chancellor
4p	Church & Society support
12p	Other costs

Stewardship

We serve a generous God, who has given his one and only Son so that we may have life to its fullness. The experience of God's generosity to us is at the heart of our ability to live a generous lifestyle. We are called to live a righteous life, to strive to do good for each other and everybody else, to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly before God (Micah 6). The stewardship of our time, talents and resources, of all that has been given to us, is a channel through which God has chosen to build his kingdom here on earth. The apostle Paul, when writing to the Corinthians, encourages the Christians there to 'give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion' (2 Cor. 9:7).

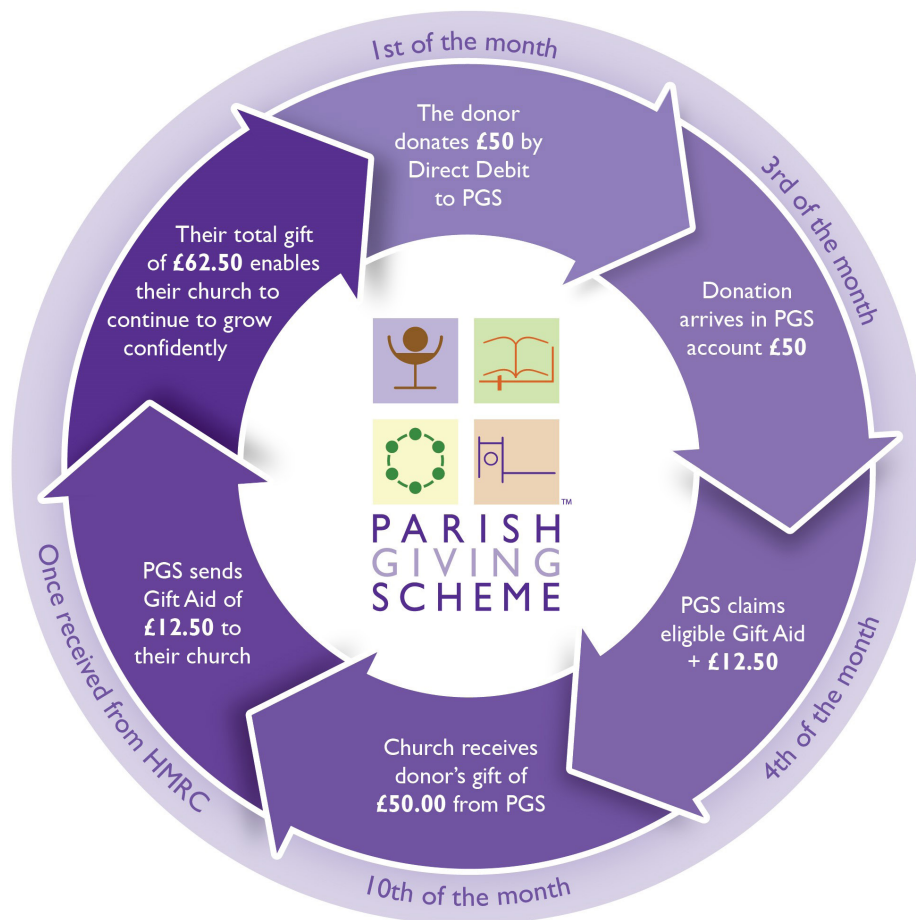
He invites the church in Corinth to share their resources with the Christians in Jerusalem and suggests that 'whoever sows generously will also reap generously' (2 Cor 9:6). It is this generosity that leads others to praise God (2 Cor 9:13). May we all embrace this Divine invitation whole-heartedly, understanding that our treasures are indeed in heaven (Matthew 6:20).

If you would like to further explore stewardship and set up a stewardship program in your parish, then do please get in touch with the Mission Resources Team. You can find the contact details on the back of this leaflet.



Parish Giving Scheme

The Parish Giving Scheme is a direct debit system that your church can set up to encourage regular contributions. With an improved cash flow, rapid Gift Aid returns, and the possibility for donors to increase their gift by inflation each year (RPI), the PGS can help your church to budget and raise funds more effectively. All contributions made through PGS go directly into your parish bank account. To find out more, please go to the Parish Giving Scheme section under resources on our website (www.exeter.anglican.org).



Contact us



The central office for the Diocese of Exeter is at the Old Deanery next to Exeter Cathedral. There are staff who cover mission and ministry, communications, safeguarding, property, finance, stewardship, community relations and more. Please do get in contact with us if there is anything we can support you with in these areas.

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