


# COMMON FUND

## 2024





**‘Do not neglect  
to do good and  
to share what  
you have, for  
such sacrifices  
are pleasing to  
God’**

Hebrews 13:16

# Introduction

We are all part of the Diocesan family, a family that extends across the whole county of Devon. We are people of all ages and stages of life who love God and neighbour and who express our faith in many ways – sharing our time, gifts and resources to build up the Body of Christ and serve those in need. The Common Fund is one expression of these bonds of Christian love and faith which we share. It is the Common Fund that enables us to house and pay for our stipendiary clergy, for the training of all ministers, lay and ordained, for the development of lay ministry, and for curacies, as well as supporting and resourcing mission and ministry across all the parishes of the Diocese. Each year parishes are asked to make a financial contribution to the Common Fund towards this cost of the Church’s mission and ministry in Devon. In this leaflet, you can find more information about it, together with a breakdown of the income and expenditure of the Diocesan budget. This leaflet gives information about our giving and how the Common Fund is used for the good of all.

Generosity is at the heart of God and we are invited to join in with God’s generosity, a wonderful expression of the gospel.

To speak personally for a moment, my own giving to the Church is through the Parish Giving Scheme and, because I have the privilege of going to many churches week by week, I give directly to the Common Fund and love to think that a small proportion is going to support the mission and ministry of those churches. If you haven’t tried it, or thought about it, I warmly commend the PGS (page 11) to you – it is a fantastic scheme.

Thank you for your giving, for your generosity, and for all that is sacrificial as you seek to love and serve God and the church family.



+ Jackie

The Right Reverend Jackie Searle,  
Acting Bishop of Exeter

# Common Fund Calculations

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

## What is taken into account:



Size of your worshipping community

(but not counting children, those who are no longer able to attend, undergraduate students and adults who are new to the church in year 1).



Local deprivation  
An adjustment\* is made to take into account local levels of poverty and wealth, amongst other things, so that richer areas help poorer ones.



Allowances are then made for each church building and parishes with more than 200 people in the worshipping community. The inflationary cap is also applied.

# Stewardship

1 Peter 4:10; Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Throughout the whole of Scripture stewardship principles are found. The management of God's resources had had its impact on the stories of many in the past, present, and future. The apostle Paul, in this letter to the early Christian communities offers encouragement and guidance in this exact area. The early Christians endured suffering and persecution and amidst these circumstances Peter emphasizes the weight of their calling; to be faithful servants and stewards of God's gifts. He acknowledges that the gifts are not our own and vary in size, shape, and colour.

Peter emphasises the vital roles played by individuals in using their unique talents and abilities for the betterment of others and in glorifying God.

This message transcends the boundaries of time and tradition, urging us all to honour our role as stewards of all God has given us. It is because of this stewardship that churches in Devon can continue to grow and carry the Good News of Jesus Christ across our community. Thank you for stewardship, and please get in touch with the Mission Resources team if you would like to have a stewardship conversation.



\*The adjustment is based on the Government's Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

# Diocesan income

Where do we get the money from?

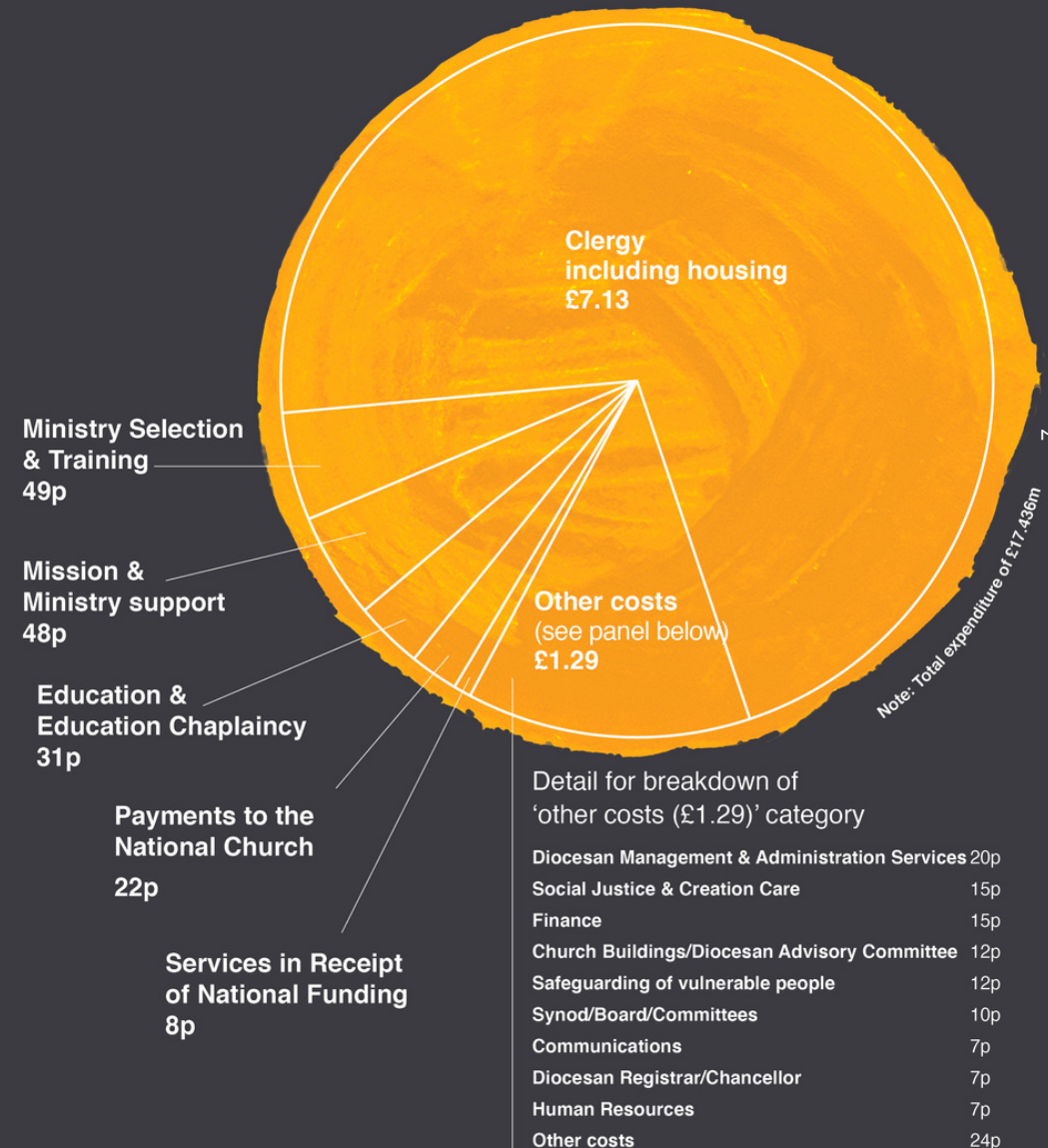
Every £10 we receive is made up as follows:



# Diocesan Expenditure

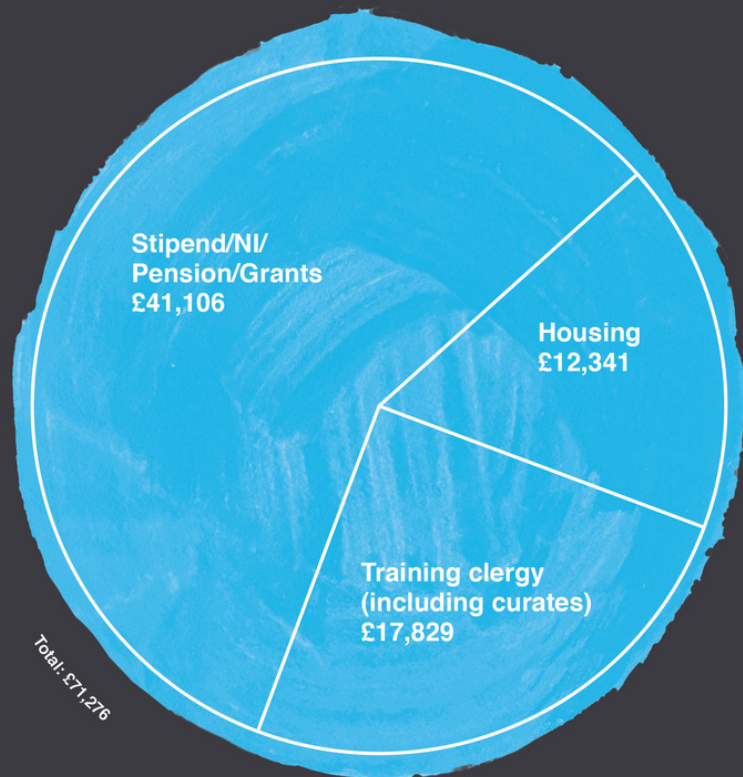
Where do we spend the money we receive?

Every £10 we receive is spent as follows:



# Cost of clergy

2024 budget based on 165 FTE posts



## Learning opportunities for both lay and ordained people.

Through Grow Courses, the Learning Journal - Cultivate, Anna Chaplaincy training and support, Mission Community Health Checks. Licensed Lay Ministers & Ordination training, Continuing Ministerial Development & more.

## Encouragement, support and signposting for Children, Families, Intergenerational and Youth Ministry

Including funding and training for new and existing projects, Kids Matter, Begin Well, Walk Through the Bible, Truth Be Told. Additionally, coaching and leading Deanery Synod discussions, plus partnerships with other agencies. Forming teams to run Children and Families events.

## The Diocese of Exeter is working towards Net Zero.

If your church is interested in reducing its carbon footprint, or needs advice on a replacement low carbon heating system we offer subsidised energy audits. For more information and other useful links visit

<https://linktr.ee/exeternetzero>

# Where the money goes

Under the Parish Giving Scheme a total of **32,868** regular gifts were made, equating to over **£3 million** being given to churches in the Diocese in 2023.

A total of **576 people** attended training led by our safeguarding team and **2,218 DBS checks** were carried out on behalf of the Diocese.

There are **134 Church Schools** in the Diocese, educating over 28,500 children and young people. In 2023, **45 projects** were undertaken to provide energy savings, increased security, fabric repairs and enhanced learning.

In 2023 we ordained  
**16 DEACONS AND  
14 PRIESTS.**

There are 268 licenced  
clergy in the Diocese and  
356 people with  
Permission to Officiate.

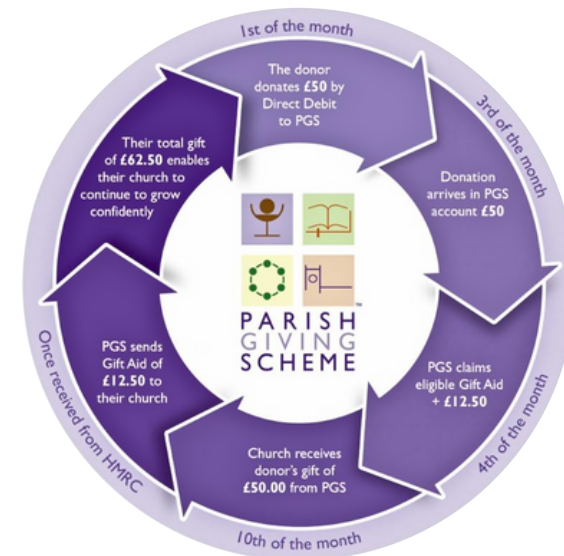
# Parish Giving Scheme

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is an efficient direct debit system designed to facilitate regular contributions for your church. By using the PGS, your church can experience improved cash flow, rapid Gift Aid returns, and the option for donors to annually increase their gifts in line with inflation.

This tool enables your church to manage budgets and raise funds more effectively. All contributions made through PGS are directly transferred into the parish's bank account. As a donor, the PGS provides security, and ease of use, all whilst supporting your church today and for the future. To set up a gift, donors can complete a paper gift form, contact the PGS team via phone, or using the online service on [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk)

Importantly, there are no processing fees associated with regular donations and only a small 1.5% transaction fee for one off gifts.

For further details and guidance on promoting PGS in your church and community, please visit their website or contact the Mission Resources Team.



# 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, people, safeguarding, property, finance, stewardship, community relations, governance and more.

Please get in touch with us if there is anything we can support you with in these areas.

Scan for more Common Fund information



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Stay in touch by signing-up for our weekly Roots & Shoots newsletter on our website home page.

[www.exeter.anglican.org](http://www.exeter.anglican.org)



The Diocese of Exeter



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