

Common Fund 2026



Introduction

One of the distinctive features of Christian life is that it is rooted in gratitude – rooted in seeing all that we have and are as a gift, down to the very fibres of our being. And this is a gift from a loving God to us His beloved children, giftedness which includes not just ourselves, but one another and the world around us.



“Be Eucharistic” says St Paul in Col 3.15 which isn’t a call to move up the candle but a call to be grateful, an attitude modelled by the saints – most strikingly even at the point of death; Cyprian of Carthage’s last words as he was martyred were “Deo Gratis”; John Chrysostom ended his difficult life with the same words and Clare of Assisi as she breathed her last gasped “thank you God for creating me”. And one of the delightful features of gratitude is it opens our eyes to seeing much more for which to be grateful.

Studies of gratitude unsurprisingly point out that grateful people are more generous people – and this is certainly true of Christians – not least those in our churches in Devon, supporting our Christian communities across the county in their service and witness. So thank you, thank you for your generous support of the church and for thereby enabling the gospel to be proclaimed, services to be conducted, pastoral care to be provided and much else besides.

This leaflet explains what is being funded by contributions towards the Church – whether training lay ministers, providing housing for clergy or otherwise, as well as more information about the Common Fund together with a breakdown of the expenditure and income of the diocesan budget.

As you read please continue to pray for God’s blessing upon the Christian communities that make up the diocese, that we may continue to be resourced to reach the people of Devon with the Good News of God’s love and grow in Jesus’ way.

Handwritten signature of Mike Exon

*The Right Reverend Mike Harrison,
Bishop of Exeter*



Prayer

God of mission

Who alone brings growth to your Church

Send your Holy Spirit to give:

Vision to our planning,

Wisdom to our actions,

Power to our witness.

Help your Church here in Devon

To grow deeper in faith and prayer

To grow new disciples, to grow leaders,

To grow younger and to grow

in joyful service

to the communities of Devon.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

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?

Worshipping Communities

The number of people in 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 or returning to faith in year 1).



Local Deprivation

An adjustment (based on the Government's Indices of Multiple Deprivation) is made. This is to take into account local levels of poverty and wealth, amongst other things, so that richer areas help poorer ones .



Church Buildings

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.



Generosity at Work

Paul's message to the Corinthians in his second letter, chapter 8, serves as a powerful call to rediscover generosity as a spiritual discipline rooted in grace. He reminds them of their initial enthusiasm to support the struggling believers in Jerusalem, urging them to complete what they started — not out of obligation, but as a response to the transformative gift of Christ. **Paul redefines giving not merely as a transaction but as an act of worship, echoing the gospel itself: "though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor."**

The Macedonian churches, despite their own struggles, gave joyfully and sacrificially. Their generosity originated from grace, and they regarded giving itself as a gift. This upside-down economy of grace challenges us to see giving as a way of life—regular, proportional, voluntary, and cheerful. It's a rhythm of discipleship that shapes character and community. **Wouldn't our lives—and the lives around us—be transformed if our generosity flowed as freely as grace?**

This vision of generosity quietly reflects deeper principles: a church that nurtures spiritual growth, embraces diversity, and responds to needs with creativity and courage. It calls for leadership that inspires, communities that welcome, and lives that mirror the heart of God. In the joy of giving, we find life.

The Mission Resources team works alongside parishes in the Diocese of Exeter to explore this call to generosity. Please reach out to us for support and resources:

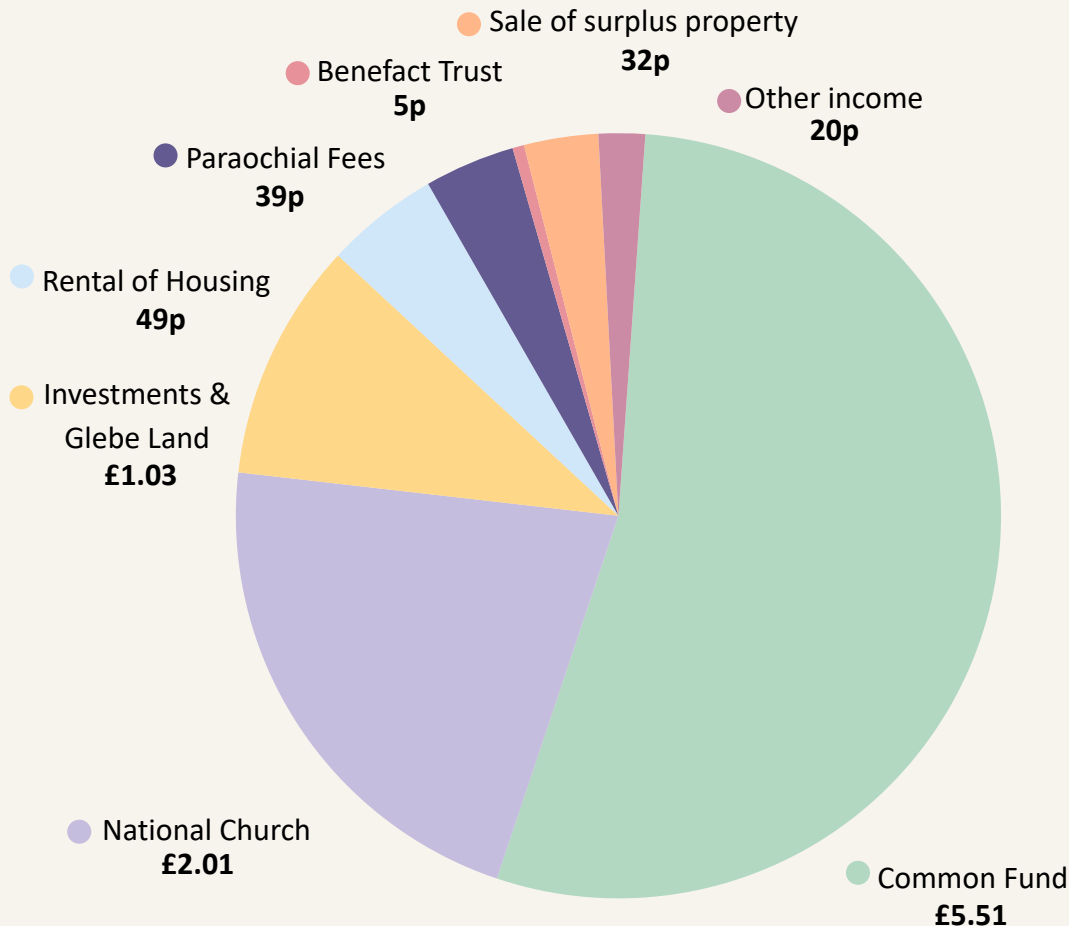
mission.resources@exeter.anglican.org



Diocesan Income

Where do we receive the money from?

Every £10 we receive is made up as follows:



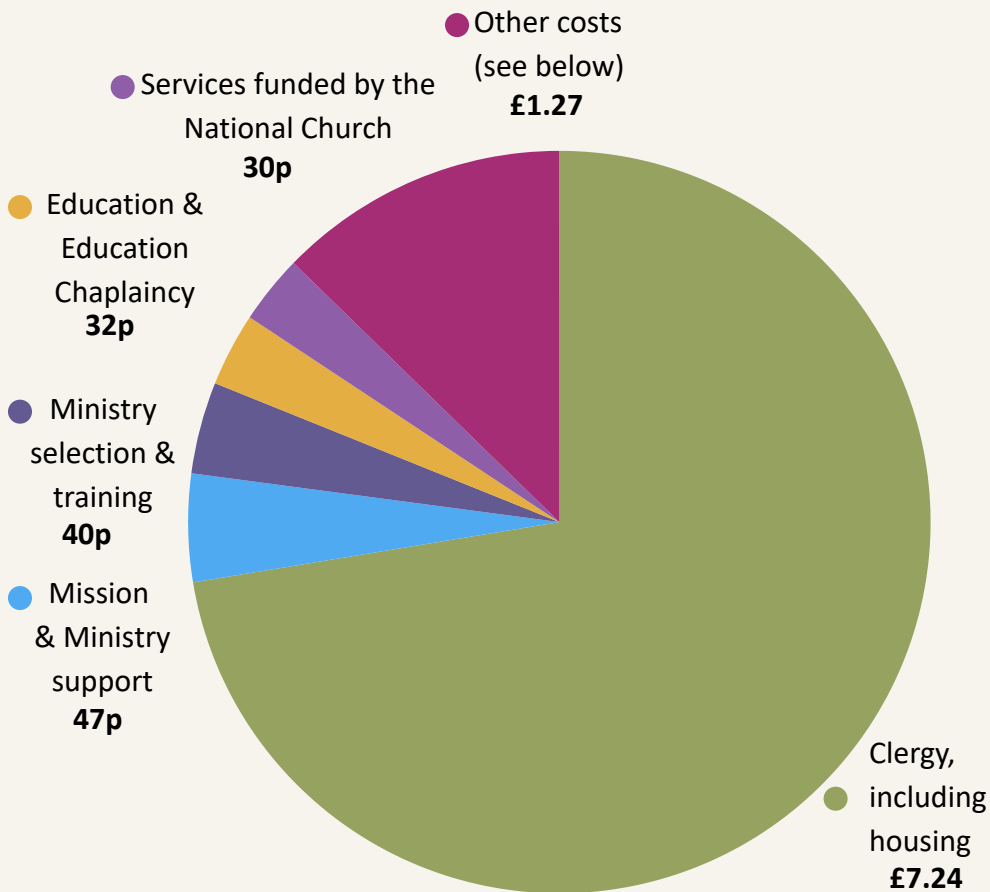
Note:

Based on total income of £15.8m

Diocesan Expenditure

Where do we spend the money we receive?

Every £10 we receive is spent as follows:



Detail for breakdown of 'other costs' category

Safeguarding of Vulnerable People	16p
Diocesan Management and Administration Services	15p
Finance	15p
Social Justice and Creation Care	13p
Church Buildings/Diocesan Advisory Committee	10p
Synod/Board/Committees	10p
Diocesan Registrar/Chancellor	9p
Human Resources	7p
Communications	7p
Other costs	25p

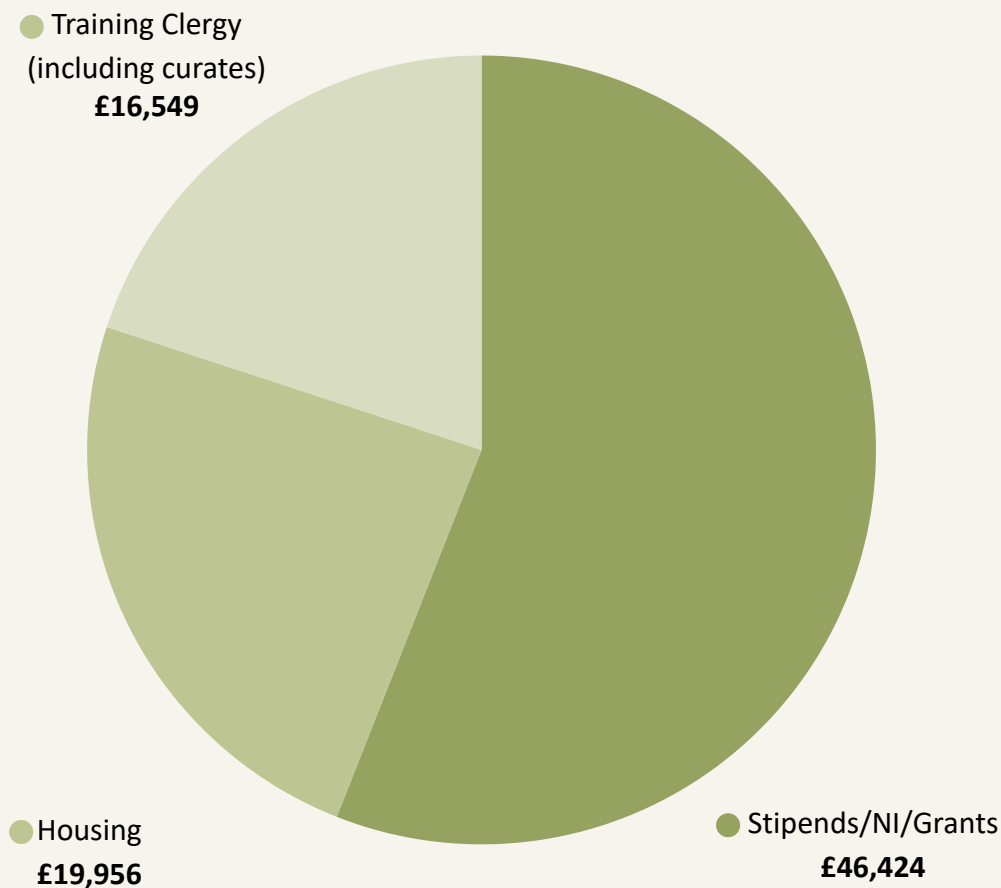
Total= £1.27

Note:

Total expenditure of £17.1m
 Requires a contribution of £0.5m from Total Return and a further contribution of £0.8m from Reserves

2026 Cost of Clergy

Total cost: £82,929



Note:

Based on 162.6 Whole Time Equivalent posts (including House for Duty posts)

Where the Money Goes

Common Fund contributions directly and indirectly support our collective mission and ministry across the diocese. Here are some examples of impact through the lens of our five missional priorities.

Missional Leadership

Common Fund is used to pay for the housing and stipends for our incumbents, curates and the housing for house-for-duty clergy. We also invest in the initial and ongoing training and development of ordained and lay leaders (through commissioned roles and licensed lay ministry). Some training and development is delivered by staff, and some is bought in from other training providers such as Bible Reading Fellowship Ministries (BRF), South West Youth Ministries (SWYM), Church Mission Society (CMS), Youthscape, St Mellitus South West, Spiritus Theological College, Christian Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS), Bridge Builders and more.



Children & Young People

The Education Team supports 134 CofE schools to ensure the upholding of their Christian Foundation and Christian Distinctiveness. The Mission and Ministry Team support for 50 plus churches and workers, including vision and strategy support, coaching and professional support, training courses and resources. Specific focus on 30K projects, such as Catalyst and Children's Ministry Essentials, as well as: Begin Well, Storytelling, Prayer Spaces in Schools, Bubble Church, Kids Matter, Open the Book and more. Partnering with South West Youth Ministries (SWYM) to deliver Launchpad and Youth Work Essentials and support the 360 Community project.

30K project: churchofengland.org/30kproject

360 Community: swym.org.uk/360-community/



Where the Money Goes



Vocations

We are enabling people to discern God's call for their lives through the work of our vocations team, and receive training through the Foundations course, Grow Courses, Commissioned roles in Evangelism, Children, Families & Youth, Anna Chaplaincy & more.

Missional DNA

We are enabling churches to put mission at the heart of everything they do through our Mission Shed programme and the work of our Mission Enabler team, as well as our Creation Care and Net Zero officers, Safeguarding, Church Buildings, Communications, Mission Resources and Education teams and our governance, finance and operational support teams.



Mixed Ecology

We are supporting new expressions of church through our Mustard Seed funding, Pioneer Ministry and Evangelist commissioned roles training, Between the Walls webinars, one-off equipping events (like the Heart Edge Mission Shed), Bubble Church and more.

Support

The Mission Resources Team assists the Diocese of Exeter's parishes in fostering generosity from all angles. By exploring the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), digital giving, and more—each targeting a different aspect of giving—churches today

are adopting various tools to foster a culture of generous giving and financial stability. PGS, which has been active in our diocese since 2016, with over 66% of parishes registered, offers a direct debit system for regular donations. This allows parishes to receive Gift Aid monthly with minimal effort from the treasurer and enables donors to adjust their gifts annually in line with inflation. With no processing fees for regular gifts and multiple setup options, PGS greatly enhances financial planning and promotes long-term support.



Complementing this, the Cornerstone platform provides churches with data-driven insights from Parish Returns, enabling them to assess giving patterns and identify opportunities. With over 50 Pathways, churches can implement manageable steps to foster generosity. At the same time, the integrated grants database—with more than 900 funding sources—allows parishes to pursue financial support for mission, maintenance, and outreach.

Digital giving has also become vital. Churches are adjusting to this by installing card readers, QR codes, and online donation platforms. These tools not only engage a cashless society but also broaden giving opportunities at events and services.

If you would like to engage with these tools, then please do contact the Mission Resources Team (mission.resources@exeter.anglican.org) or come and meet us, alongside a range of grant funders, at the next Meet the Funders Day.

Information on all these topics can be found here:

exeter.anglican.org/resources/generous-giving





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.

Email: enquiries@exeter.anglican.org

Phone: 01392 272686

Address:

Diocesan Offices

The Old Deanery


The Cloisters Exeter


EX1 1HS

**Stay in touch by signing-up for our weekly
Roots & Shoots newsletter on our website
home page:
exeter.anglican.org**

**Scan for more Common
Fund information**



The Diocese of Exeter 

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