DIOCESE OF EXETER
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN DEVON

PRAY GROW SERVE 2035
Inspiring Faith in Devon



Common Fund 2027

Introduction

The church in Jerusalem was facing hard times. A severe drought around 40AD led to famine and poverty. On top of that, the Romans were getting a little overenthusiastic about collecting taxes. They weren't just collecting tax once, but twice, meaning that everyone had to give away a double tithe. To make matters worse, the Christian church was being marginalised and treated very unfairly – if you followed Jesus, then it was pretty tough to get a job.

As Paul travelled round the cities of Europe, he shared news of these troubles, and the church in Macedonia responded (2 Cor 8).
They were facing hardship of their own, but that didn't stop them from digging deep and giving generously.

Why did they behave in this unusual way?

Paul speaks of the grace of giving in 2 Corinthians 8:7, emphasising it as a divine gift and example to emulate. These Macedonians knew the grace of God – they had received the love of God in Christ Jesus, and it had made a difference in their lives – producing joy.

Paul stresses how the life of the Christian is a life of imitation – Jesus calls us to follow. As we walk in his footsteps, we try to be like the one who leads: not a life of grabbing and getting, but of giving. And this generous attitude led him to the Cross, where he gave his very self. Paul claims that the Macedonian Christians had got this. The Gospel wasn't merely an historical fact or a religious symbol, but a life-changing reality.

I thank God for the grace so many in our churches have experienced and the joy and generosity that has been evoked in contributions towards the life and health of the churches of this Diocese.

This leaflet explains what is being funded by contributions towards the Church, 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 grace upon the Christian communities that make up the Diocese, that we may continue to experience the joy of knowing God in Jesus and be resourced to reach the people of Devon with the Good News of God's love and grow in Jesus' way.



+Mike Exon

The Right Reverend Mike Harrison
Bishop of Exeter

Common Fund

Calculations

Several factors are taken into account when calculating Common Fund requests so the allocation is as fair as possible across the Diocese. The same formula applies to all parishes, whether 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 no longer able to attend, undergraduate students, and adults new to or returning to church in year 1).

Local Deprivation

An adjustment* accounts for local levels of poverty and wealth, among other factors, so richer areas help poorer ones.

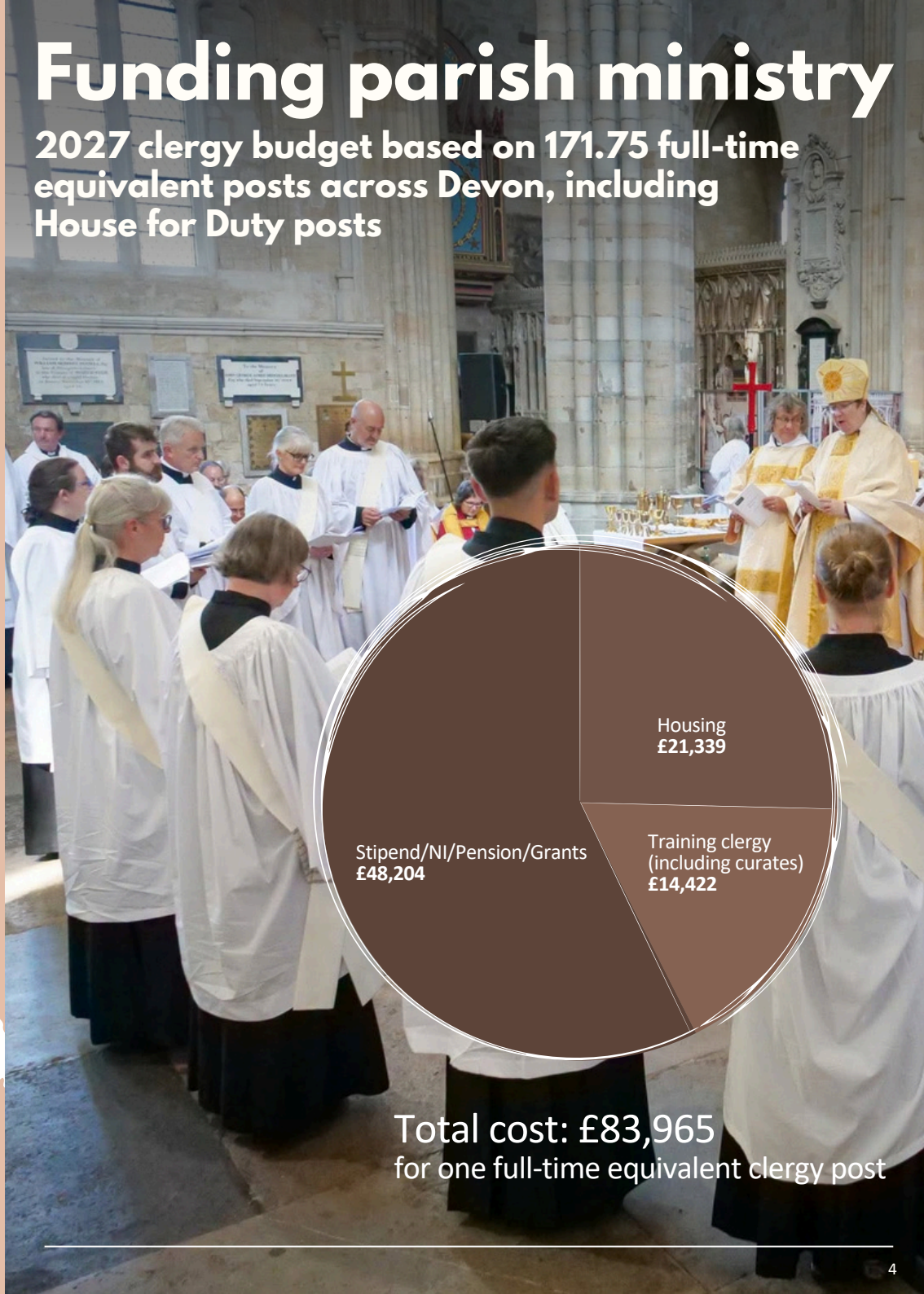
Church Buildings

Allowances are then made for each church building and for parishes with more than 200 people in the worshipping community.
An inflationary cap also prevents excessive increases.

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

Funding parish ministry

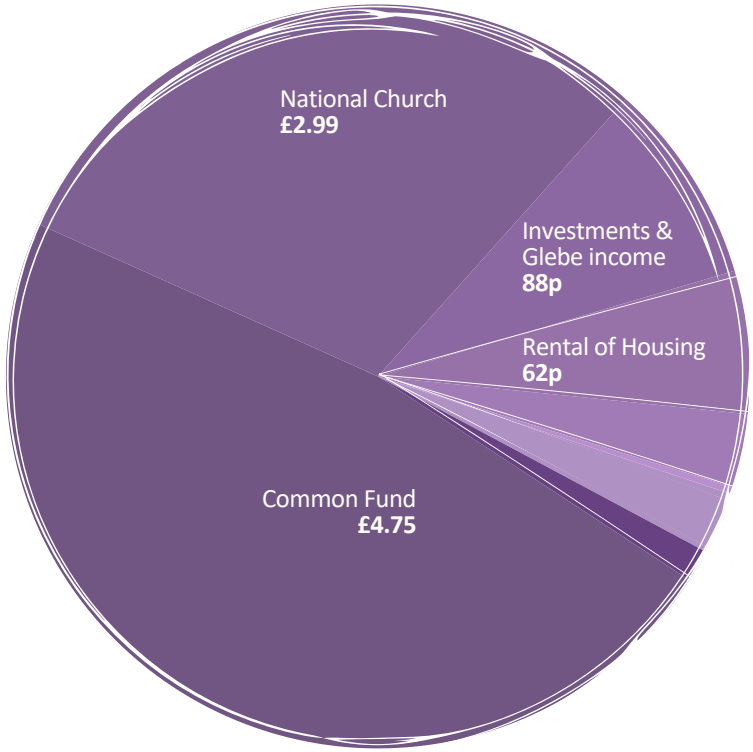
2027 clergy budget based on 171.75 full-time equivalent posts across Devon, including House for Duty posts



Total cost: £83,965
for one full-time equivalent clergy post

Diocesan Income

Where do we get the money from?
Every £10 we receive is made up as follows:



Parochial Fees
32p

Benefact Trust
3p

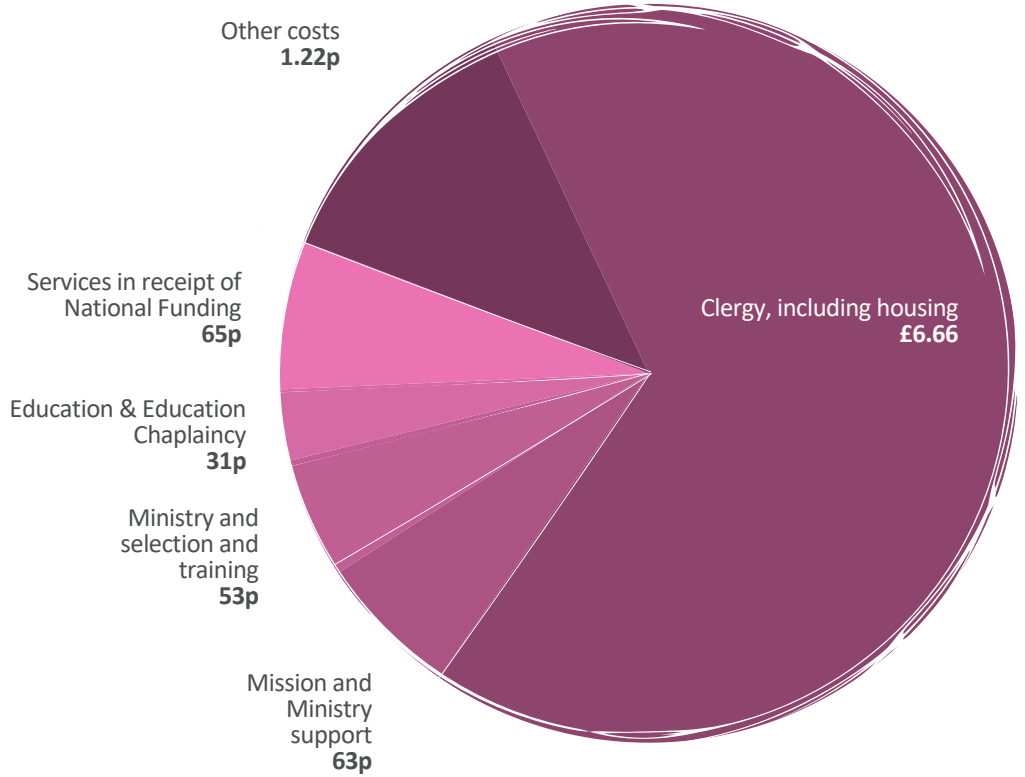
Sale of property
27p

Other income
14p

Note:
Total income of £18.7m

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

Other (parish) support teams	£1.00
Social Justice & Creation Care	£0.12
Glebe expenses	£0.08
EDPS expenses	£0.02
Total	**£1.22**

Note:
Total expenditure of £20.4m
Requires a £0.5m contribution from Total Return and a further £1.2m from reserves.

Resourcing
the church across Devon

The Common Fund underpins the Diocese of Exeter's vision for Pray, Grow, Serve 2035: to grow in prayer, make new disciples, and serve the people of Devon with joy. It helps deliver the Diocese's five missional priorities by strengthening **Missional Leadership**, nurturing **Missional DNA** in our churches, encouraging and developing **Vocations**, placing **Children and Families** at the heart of ministry, and supporting a **Mixed Ecology** of church life through both parish ministry and new expressions of church.

The Common Fund is the primary source of funding for ministry and mission across the Diocese of Exeter. The largest share of expenditure supports clergy, ensuring that ministry is available across Devon, regardless of a parish's local resources. Through the Common Fund, more than 270 licensed clergy (including Self Supporting Ministers) serve our communities, alongside over 170 Licensed Lay Ministers and more than 340 clergy with Permission to Officiate. In 2026, the Diocese ordained 20 deacons and 11 priests, the highest number of new clergy for a number of years, strengthening ministry and mission in communities across Devon.

Behind every parish stands a dedicated network of diocesan teams and services that enable churches to flourish.
Through Foundations, GROW* courses, training for commissioned roles, Licensed Lay Ministry and ordination training, Continuing Ministerial Development and Mission Action Planning, clergy and lay leaders are equipped to grow in faith and lead with confidence.
In 2025, the **safeguarding team** delivered 886 training sessions and processed 2,423 DBS checks, helping churches provide safe and welcoming environments for all.

*GROW is a series of courses designed to enable people to grow in their faith and service to God and the church.

Care for creation and **church buildings** is another important area of support. The **Net Zero team** signposts churches to guidance, resources and financial support, including subsidised technical advice for those seeking to reduce their carbon footprint or considering a new heating system. In addition, churches receive expert advice on caring for and developing their buildings. In 2025, more than 230 applications for minor repairs were approved, over 120 churches received advice on maintenance, repairs or proposed changes, and 63 Faculties were granted.

Education is another vital area of ministry. Through its work with church schools, academy trusts, governors and school leaders, the Diocese fosters environments in which children and young people can flourish academically, spiritually and socially, while strengthening partnerships among schools, churches and local communities. **Children, young people and families** remain a key priority. Training, coaching, resources and strategic support are provided to more than 100 churches and workers across the Diocese. Initiatives such as Catalyst, TAG* and Children's Ministry Essentials are helping develop new leaders across all generations, while events including Spree, the Devon County Show and diocesan celebrations reach thousands of children and young people each year.

The Common Fund sustains the practical support that often goes unseen, including **governance**, **legal advice**, **communications support**, **financial administration** and the many behind-the-scenes services that allow local churches to focus on worship, mission and community engagement. Alongside this, Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) funding supports new mission initiatives and church growth. Yet the Common Fund remains the essential foundation for the Church's day-to-day ministry, mission and support across Devon.

*Transforming a Generation (TAG) wants to mobilise young people to become pioneers of change.

Fundraising Support

The Mission Resources Team helps the Diocese of Exeter's parishes foster generosity from every angle. By exploring the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), digital giving, and more, churches today are adopting a range of tools to nurture a culture of generous giving and financial stability.

PGS, active in our Diocese since 2016, provides a simple, secure direct debit system for regular giving. For Gift-Aided donations, parishes automatically receive Gift Aid payments each month, improving cash flow and reducing administration. Donors can also choose to increase their gifts annually in line with inflation (CPI*). With no processing fees for regular donations, multiple set-up options, and all contributions paid directly into the parish bank account, PGS supports effective financial planning and long-term sustainability.

Alongside this, the Cornerstone platform gives churches data-driven insights from Parish Returns, helping them assess giving patterns and identify opportunities. With over 50 Pathways, churches can take manageable steps to foster generosity, while the integrated grants database, containing more than 900 funding sources, helps parishes pursue support for mission, maintenance, and outreach.

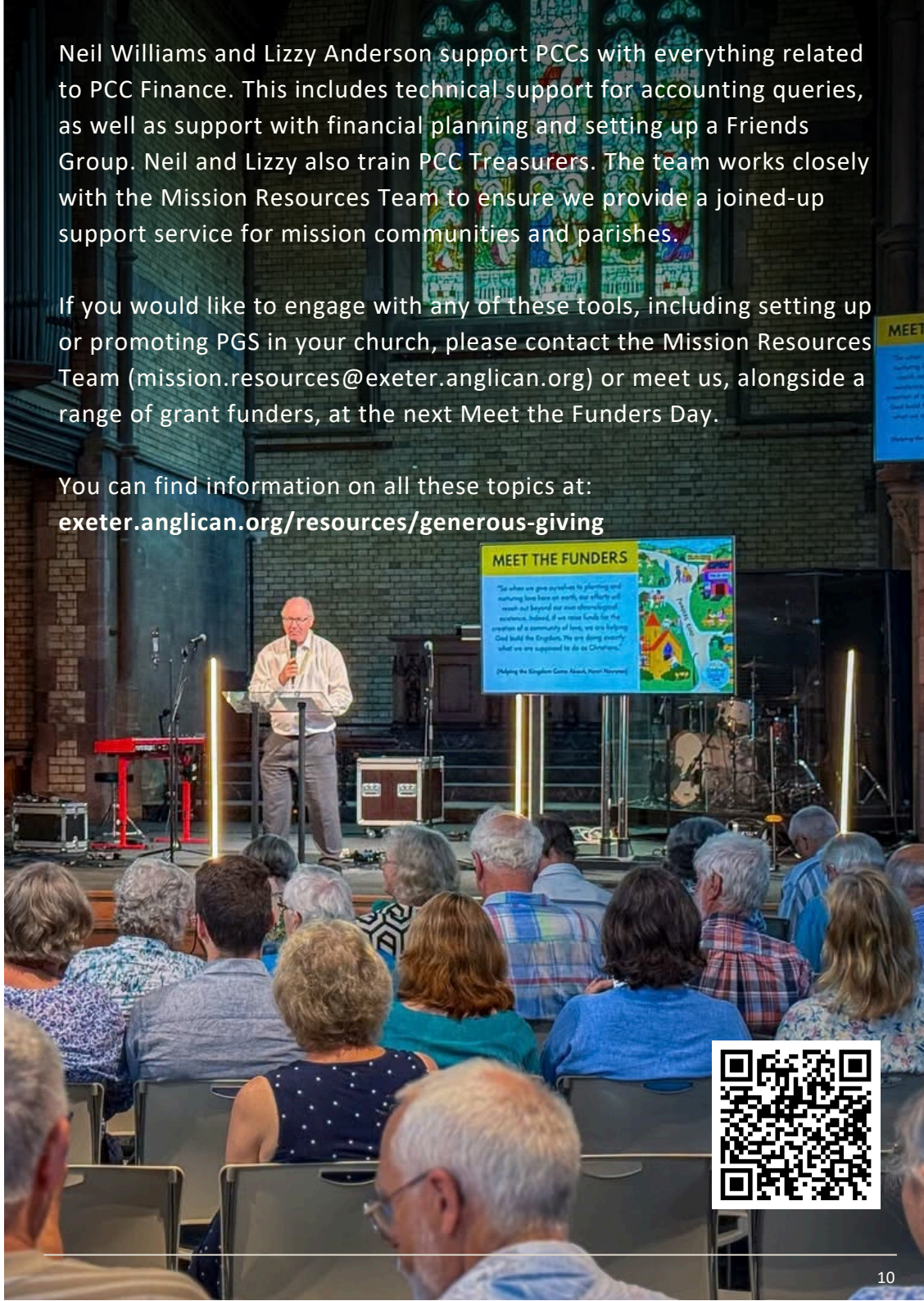
Digital giving has also become vital. Churches are responding by installing card readers, QR codes, and online donation platforms, engaging with a cashless society and broadening opportunities to give during services and events.

*CPI is the Consumer Prices Index.

Neil Williams and Lizzy Anderson support PCCs with everything related to PCC Finance. This includes technical support for accounting queries, as well as support with financial planning and setting up a Friends Group. Neil and Lizzy also train PCC Treasurers. The team works closely with the Mission Resources Team to ensure we provide a joined-up support service for mission communities and parishes.

If you would like to engage with any of these tools, including setting up or promoting PGS in your church, please contact the Mission Resources Team (mission.resources@exeter.anglican.org) or meet us, alongside a range of grant funders, at the next Meet the Funders Day.

You can find information on all these topics at:
exeter.anglican.org/resources/generous-giving



Contact us

Our central office is at the Old Deanery next to Exeter Cathedral. Staff 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, or sign up for our weekly Roots, Shoots & Fruits newsletter on our website home page: exeter.anglican.org

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Our Socials

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