



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leeds

PARISH SHARE 2026



An introduction from Bishop Toby



I'm writing to you as Bishop Nick has delegated his diocesan responsibilities to me ahead of his retirement, and I'm writing about Parish Share.

Churches and Christians have always looked after each other. This was central to the understanding and the growth of the early church, as we read in Paul's letters and the Acts of the Apostles.

In this diocese we've got a challenge. I learned recently that just seven years ago nearly all the costs of ministry across our diocese were covered by Parish Share. Now Share covers less than three quarters of those costs. This isn't something we can wait for a new bishop to help us sort out. Wouldn't it be a great present for our new bishop if we have addressed this issue during the vacancy-in-see?

So, I'm asking you to do two things.

Firstly, will you commit to pray with me about Parish Share, especially for the next 12 months? To pray about Share intentionally, regularly, privately, with friends, in PCCs and in church. To pray joyfully and confidently that our rich and generous God will turn this situation around.

Secondly, will you talk more about this issue? I don't like talking about money, but I'm learning to be more like Jesus, who was very comfortable talking about money, speaking joyfully and confidently, knowing that his Heavenly Father provided, and he didn't need to be worried. And we don't need to be worried.

If we are open with God and one another, and talk about our church and diocesan finances, I'm confident that new ideas will emerge. I'm looking forward to God answering our prayers and enabling us to be more accountable to one another in the use of our money.

I want to finish by saying how grateful I am to everyone, every church and benefice, who gives. I know it's costly and increasingly tough, but I'm so appreciative of your generosity, for what it offers for ministry, and also what it offers as a sign of God's kingdom. Thank you.

+ Toby Bradford

Your contribution is *essential*



Your Parish Share contributions enable local ministry to thrive by funding the work of your clergy. Every penny you give is shared out so that every parish, regardless of its individual wealth, is supported in its ministry and mission. Helping together is what Parish Share is all about. Every church is asked to give and every church receives so that we can be confident Christians, grow our churches and transform our communities

Thank you for your generous contributions.

“...every
church gives,
and every
church
receives...

- Bishop Toby



Parish Share Agreements

In October 2025 we introduced the Parish Share Agreement process. The PSA meetings are a chance for face-to-face conversation. Through them we aim to build stronger relationships by listening carefully to each parish's unique context and financial situation.



Together, we'll agree on contributions that ensure that each parish feels empowered and valued. We're here to help with stewardship advice and practical resources to go alongside the new three-year Share Requests. We will visit one deanery at a time on a rolling three-year cycle, meeting with every parish. This isn't just about numbers - it's about encouraging confidence and celebrating the generosity that sustains our shared mission.

In the Parish Share Agreement meetings we will...



Listen to each parish's local context and financial situation



Agree on Parish Share contributions that value and empower parishes



Help with Stewardship advice, guidance, and signposting additional resources

For more information and FAQs on Parish Share Agreements please visit [Parish Share Explained](#)

Supporting our ministry in 2026

In 2026 we expect to spend £22.4m, of which £16.9m will be on front line parish clergy and their homes. We expect to raise £12.1m through Parish Share, but this will cover only **74%** of parish clergy costs, whereas in 2019 Parish Share contributions covered **96%** of these costs.

This growing deficit continues to be covered by other income sources such as Church of England grants, parochial fees, investment and rental income but this approach is unsustainable.

Your generosity is vital to sustain and nurture the ministry work of clergy in your parishes and others across our diocese.



Together our generosity supports



440 Houses



2,700 Baptisms



900 Weddings



440 Parishes



290 Clergy & Curates



4,000 Funerals



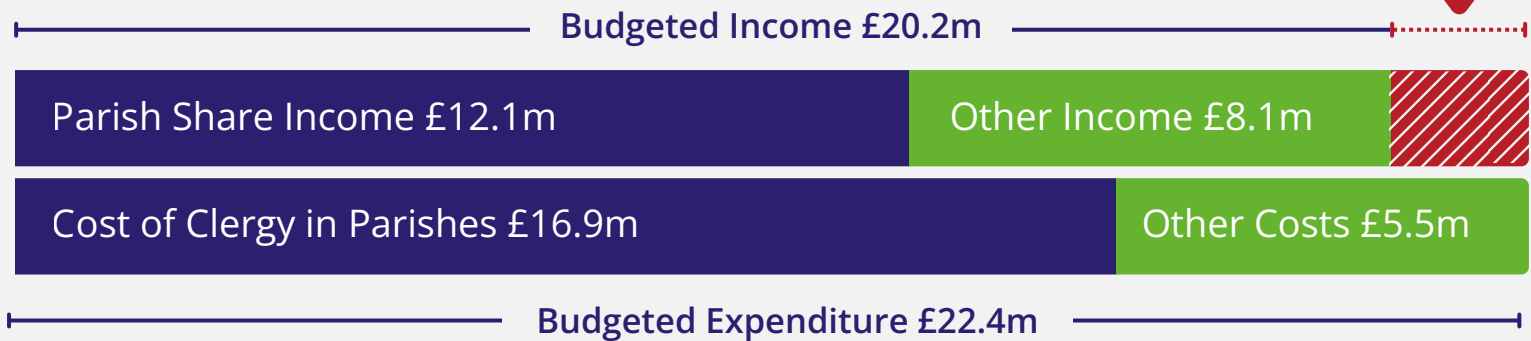
32,000 Worshippers



2026 Diocesan Budget

The 2026 budget estimates income of £20.2m against expenditure of £22.4m, with the deficit funded by the use of diocesan reserves and property sales. Other income includes £4m from the National Church.

£2.2m deficit



What are we doing to address the deficit?

Parish Share Agreements

encouraging generosity by working together.

National Church funding

has increased to all dioceses in the country to help with rising costs.

Strategic investment

through programmes such as Barnabas, to support parish missional and financial strength.



Maximising development

opportunities from our land and buildings.

Managing costs

to make us one of the most cost-efficient dioceses in the country.

"We don't like talking about money, but let's learn to be more like Jesus, who was very comfortable in talking about money"

- Bishop Toby

How each £100 is spent across the diocese



How is Parish Share calculated?

Your Parish Share is calculated using a formula which is built on the factors below



Clergy Deployment

The majority (two thirds) of the request is driven by the allocation of clergy, with total share split by the number of clergy roles in the diocese.



Church Attendance

The remainder is driven by the Usual Sunday Attendance, with total share split by total attendance across the diocese to give an average cost per attendee.



Socio Economic

The combined Clergy Deployment and Attendance Factors are then reduced or increased based on the relative deprivation of your parish.

The above can then be adjusted by additional caps depending on your parish's context.

The same factors are used to calculate the three-year Parish Share Requests.

For a more detailed explanation please visit:
leeds.anglican.org/parish-share-explained

Your questions answered

What do we mean by cost of clergy in parishes?

The cost of clergy in parishes includes stipends, national insurance, pensions and housing. This includes the cost of curates, which are shared across the diocese. It also accounts for casual duty fees for retired clergy covering services.

Why do we make Parish Share contributions when we haven't got a vicar?

All Parish Share contributions are combined to support every parish in the diocese, regardless of size or wealth. Even without a vicar, your gift helps sustain other parishes, and the gifts from others helps to sustain your parish and enables all clergy to serve communities. This collective effort fosters practical, spiritual, and financial support, contributing to a shared vision of welcome, support, and faith growth.

Why do we need to pay Parish Share when the Church of England is so wealthy?

The Church of England has significant resources managed by the Church Commissioners. They are providing £1.6 billion in funding for 2026-2028, covering bishops' ministries, cathedrals, and clergy pensions. Funding for dioceses includes support for low-income communities and the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment programme. In 2024, £5.1 million was received from the National Church, but much of it was restricted, necessitating continued reliance on Parish Share for funding essential work.

What is the diocese doing to lower its central costs?

The Diocese of Leeds maintains lower central costs compared to most other dioceses, with 2024 support costs £2.0m lower than in 2018. These savings come from reduced staffing and efficiency measures. The diocese also seeks external funding, such as National Church grants, to minimize support costs in the unrestricted budget.

Parish Share Agreement questions

How do Parish Share Agreements fit with the current Share process ?

Given the the size of our diocese, it is not possible to do the Parish Share Agreement process within one year. Rather, this is being done over three years (roughly 150 parishes per year). Therefore, many parishes will be using the existing approach for some time yet. Additionally, we are continuing to use the current share formula to create a consistent benchmark for those PSA conversations and therefore, will continue to send these out.

Why have I received a 3-year Parish Share request now when my meeting isn't until 2027?

We have received feedback over recent years that it would assist PCC planning to receive Parish Share requests further in advance. Therefore, irrespective of whether your PSA meeting is taking place during 2026 we have provided the calculated request for 2026 - 2028.

What support is available now for those who do not have their PSA meeting until 2027 or 2028?

We are here to support now, no matter when your PSA meeting is. Whilst we don't have capacity to have all PSA conversations immediately, we are ready to help any parish seeking help with stewardship and income generation matters.

Will my Parish Share contributions increase under PSA?

We do not expect to agree contributions above the calculated base share (i.e. the request without any caps). And, we recognise that for many, the current request is out of reach. As a result, we may agree to reduced requests for a time with a view to increasing them over the coming years. By investing time in having conversations with you and understanding your local context and finances we hope to identify ways in which we can help support your parish.

Support from the Stewardship Team



Jennifer Robinson

Parish Support Accountant

Ann Roebuck

Parish Support Officer

Janet Edmond

Senior Stewardship Officer

Beth Vickers-Smith

Stewardship Officer

We support parishes throughout the diocese by providing the tools to build and maintain a generous culture in response to God's generosity to us. This is essential for every church to develop sustainable ministry, and also to understand and meet their Parish Share.

If your church struggles to meet its Parish Share in full, please reach out for advice and support. Our Stewardship Team can help every congregation take a fresh look at its giving and together we can help you meet your challenges with confidence.

For enquiries relating to Parish Finance, Stewardship & Income Generation please email:
resourcingparishes@leeds.anglican.org

Please follow the links below to discover the types of support we can offer PCCs, Treasurers & Clergy.

[Treasurer Support](#)

[Stewardship and Income Generation](#)

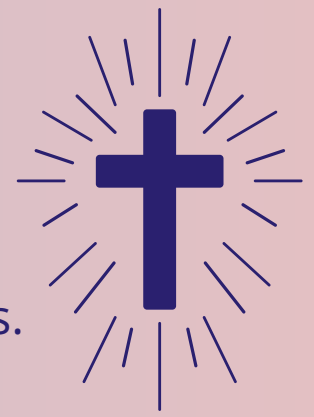
[Parish Giving Scheme](#)



For more helpful resources please scan the QR code or visit linktr.ee/resourcingparishes

A Prayer of Giving

Lord God, thank you
for the many blessings you lavish on us
as your beautiful, multicultural,
intergenerational church across this Diocese of Leeds.
Help us to respond wholeheartedly
to your immeasurable love, grace and mercy;
offering all that we are and all that you have gifted us,
in the service of your kingdom.
Loving one another and the communities we serve,
Living lives that reflect your radical generosity,
Learning to follow you more faithfully step by step.
Amen.



by Revd Fran Nunn, Priest-in-Charge
Emmanuel Benefice of Newsome, Armitage Bridge and Netherton



Thank You

Your Parish Share contributions encourage confidence within
our churches, so they may grow and help transform
communities across the Diocese of Leeds.