

## The Common Fund

Following a series of consultations across the Diocese in 2015 a new method for calculating the contributions that parishes are asked to make to the Common Fund was introduced in 2017. The consultations revealed a preference for a method which bases the calculation of each parish's contribution on the size of its worshipping community and on its relative affluence.

Basing the calculation of the size of a parish's worshipping community reflects an assumption that those worshipping regularly are committed to supporting mission and ministry; basing the calculation on the relative affluence of a parish reflects not only the targeting of the money provided to Dioceses by the Church Commissioners on deprived communities but also an attempt to avoid asking deprived parishes to make unrealistic contributions.

Generosity is the key principle underpinning the new method for calculating the contributions parishes are asked to make to the Common Fund. Through the Common Fund parishes with low levels of deprivation are asked to be generous, supporting mission and ministry in parishes with high levels of deprivation.

## Our Common Fund Prayer

*God our Father, make us to think more of what we can give to life and less of what we can get out of it. May we be mindful that we hold our gifts, our talents, our possessions, our life itself, in trust for you and the service of all people. Save us from thinking only of our own needs and desires; and help us to remember that it is more blessed to give than receive, according to the teaching of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

## Information & resources

We have a wide range of resources to help parishes review planned giving. For more information, please contact the Archdeacons or the Parish Support Office.

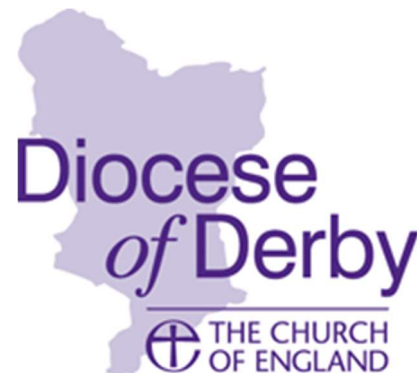
## Contact

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### Christ's presence in every community

Growing • Outward Facing • Learning • Healthy



Living generously



**The Common Fund:**  
Paying for Mission and Ministry

## The Big Picture

Our Diocesan vision is to discern and bear witness to Christ's presence in every community. This vision is built on four 'component parts' that together describe a life common to our Parishes, to our Deaneries, and to our Diocese: that individually and corporately we are outward facing, growing, learning, and healthy.

One foundation for our common life together is the resources we bring to enable us to discern and bear witness to Christ's presence through our churches, through our schools, and through our service and connection with our communities.

These resources include ourselves – who we are in Christ – and our calling – what Christ is asking us to do. They also include the buildings, the equipment and the finance required to support all that we are called to in Christ so that lives – and communities – can be transformed by the love of God.



## Costs of Mission and Ministry

The costs of mission and ministry include those for church buildings (heating, lighting, insurance, maintenance, etc.), for mission and ministry (worship, learning, outreach, etc.), and for people (salaries, expenses, etc.).

Parishes pay for their church buildings, for local mission and ministry, and for their locally-employed staff and volunteers (parish administrators, lay parish workers, etc.). These costs are met through the generosity of individuals in parishes.

The Diocese – through the Board of Finance – pays for centrally-provided mission and ministry (training for Churchwardens and Readers, etc.), for stipendiary ministers in parishes (stipends, pension contributions, housing, etc.), and for Diocesan staff in the Parish Support Office. These costs to the Diocese will be approximately £9 million in 2017.



## Paying for Mission and Ministry

In 2017 the Diocesan Board of Finance needs approximately £9 million to pay for centrally-provided mission and ministry, stipendiary ministers, and Diocesan staff. In 2017 the Diocese will receive

- £1½ million from the Church Commissioners
- £2 million from investment income (e.g., rents from glebe land and property owned or held in trust by the Diocese)
- £½ million from fees for weddings and funerals conducted in parishes

The remaining £5 million will come from the Common Fund. The Common Fund – the contributions made by every parish to the Diocese – is the most significant source of income for the Diocese. Without the Common Fund local mission and ministry across the Diocese could not be supported.

