



Diocese of Bristol

Diocesan finances: your questions answered

I have heard various amounts given for the cost of a stipendiary minister. What is the actual cost to the Diocese?

The total direct cost of a stipendiary minister to the Diocese in 2012 is £43,600; as well as stipend and NI contributions, this includes average housing repair costs, Council Tax and water rates and pension contributions. Ongoing training and support costs add a further £3,000 per stipendiary minister.

I have heard we have a lot of ministers in training at the moment. Surely there's a knock on cost?

We currently have about 50 ministers in pre-ordination or admission training and 40 training curates. Training ministers is vital to the future of the Church and in all, we invest almost £1m in initial training of our ministers.

Pre-ordination training ranges from between £7,000 and £15,000 each year. However, training costs are shared with other dioceses through the national Church and currently Bristol's training costs are heavily subsidised. 16 of our training curates are stipendiary (each costing over £40,000). If we were to share these costs between each benefice, the cost per year would be £9,000.

How much of our expenditure goes on governance and infrastructure?

To support the governance and infrastructure of the Diocese and the national Church, we spend approx £750,000 each year, £250,000 of which is our contribution to national Church costs (not including pre-ordination training). This is just under 10% of total diocesan costs and we receive a good deal from the national Church too (see below).

We have two Bishops. Isn't that an unnecessary expense?

The cost of our Bishops, their office staff and their working costs are met by the national Church (Church Commissioners). Although they have significant national Church responsibilities, they devote the majority of their time and ministry to the Diocese.

Don't we give far too much money to the national Church?

In total, we share £450,000 with the national Church – this is predominantly for ordination training and to support national Church of England governance.

However, costs of ordination training alone of Diocese of Bristol candidates is currently in the region of £500,000 and we also currently receive grants from the national Church of about £350,000 for various purposes. In addition, they fund our Bishops' ministries and parts of Bristol Cathedral's ministry. We are therefore substantial net receivers as a diocese from the national Church.