



## Briefing Paper // 2026 Parish Share

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<b>Prepared By:</b>	James Morrey Giving & Resources Advisor
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<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide a summary of the key points and messages for the 2026 Parish Share request for use by treasurers or clergy in PCC discussions.

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### 1.0 Introduction:

- 1.1 Parish Share is the method by which the Diocese of Bristol asks parishes to contribute to the common fund used to provide, support or enable parish ministry across the whole Diocese. Through contributing to Parish Share, each church in the Diocese is taking shared responsibility for providing vital mission and ministry in every community, especially those that might not otherwise be able to afford it.
- 1.2 The components we use in the calculation are designed to try and cover the cost of clergy for the whole Diocese by asking those parishes most able to contribute to give the most.
- 1.3 In 2026:
  - 1.3.1 The total cost of paid incumbent clergy comes to a little over £6 million. This is comprised of:
    - 1.3.1.1 The total cost of incumbent stipends, national insurance, pensions contributions which comes to £4.6 million.
    - 1.3.1.2 The total cost of incumbent housing costs which comes to £1.4 million.
  - 1.3.2 The total cost of stipends and housing for curates is £1.3 million.
  - 1.3.3 This makes the total cost of clergy ministry in the Diocese approximately £7.3 million.
- 1.4 Since 2018, the amount the Diocese receives in response to the amounts requested has decreased from 92% to 87% in 2024. This meant that in 2024, the shortfall on the request was £768,000.

### 2.0 Why Parish Share is Important:

- 2.1 Every year, every pound given through Parish Share is used to provide, support or enable vital ministry in every parish. This is made possible by the faithful generosity of individual Christians giving to the work of their local church, and the willingness of parishes to share their resources with the wider Diocese.

- 2.2** In 2024 parishes reported that they:
- Conducted approximately 1,200 school assemblies.
  - Ran 32 Messy Church or a similar type of service.
  - Baptised 700 people.
  - Married 250 couples.
  - Conducted 1,200 funerals.
  - Welcomed 7,750 adults and 1,200 children on a usual Sunday.
  - Counted approximately 15,660 as being a part of their worshipping communities.
- 2.3** Although finances are a struggle for many individuals and churches, Parish Share provides an opportunity to demonstrate our trust in Christ. We invest some of the resources God has given us in the wider mission of the local church by contributing to the common fund of the Diocese.
- 2.4** The Diocese of Bristol primarily uses the money raised through Parish Share to provide, equip and support ordained clergy as they minister in different parishes. Ably assisted by a multitude of lay ministers and other volunteers, ordained clergy are trained and able to devote themselves to the church without having to earn a living elsewhere. Supporting these clergy to facilitate the ministry of our parishes is made possible by the faithful generosity of individual Christians giving to the work of their local church.
- 3.0 How The 2026 Request Was Calculated:**
- 3.1** The components we use in the calculation are designed to try and cover the cost of clergy for the whole diocese by asking those parishes most able to contribute to give the most. The method we use is based upon a parish contributing to the costs of paid clergy and the services that support parish ministry.
- 3.2** The details of the different components that go into the calculation and combine into the request are available in the [2026 Parish Share Explained booklet](#).
- 3.3** Answers to some frequently asked questions are available on our [website](#).
- 3.4** There has been a significant increase in clergy stipends for 2026 following several decisions made at General Synod. After several years of falling behind inflation, Synod resolved to increase clergy stipends which also impacts on pension contributions. The government increased National Insurance Contributions in 2025 which also accounts for a proportion of the increase. In addition, a Diocesan Finance Review changed the way that payments are made for ordinand training and other central Church of England costs. The Diocese of Bristol is one of a small number of Dioceses which are adversely impacted.
- 4.0 What the PCC Can Do:**
- 4.1** Understand what we have asked of your individual parish:
- The e-mail 2026 Parish Share request will hold more information about the amount we have calculated, and signpost to resources that will provide some explanation.
- 4.2** Prayerfully discuss your request as a PCC:

Parish Share is often the single largest item of expenditure for a church and so the impact of the request needs to be considered. Since the request is calculated based on paid clergy allocation to a parish, we hope and pray that most parishes can commit to meeting the request in full.

#### **4.3** Ask if you have any questions or concerns:

Contact [James Morrey](#) our Giving & Resources Advisor if you'd like to discuss your request, or if you anticipate any issues with paying it.

We have scheduled four webinars (each with the same content) to give anybody who would like to have the calculations explained. They will be on:

- [2.00pm on Tuesday 07 October 2025](#)
- [7.30pm on Wednesday 08 October 2025](#)
- [7.30pm on Monday 13 October 2025](#)
- [11.00am on Thursday 16 October 2025](#)

#### **4.4** Make your pledge:

Inform us in writing of what you can pledge towards Parish Share in 2026 by 31 October 2025 to [parishshare@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:parishshare@bristoldiocese.org). This will allow us to finalise Diocesan plans for 2026 and begin to identify ways of supporting you if necessary.

### **5.0 Further Information:**

- 5.1** The [website](#) has a video from Bishop Neil about Parish Share, a summary of the calculations and answers to frequently asked questions.
- 5.2** The [2026 Parish Share booklet](#) provides the most detailed general information about how the request is calculated.
- 5.3** Contact [James Morrey](#) the Giving & Resources Advisor who can discuss the detail of your individual request.