

A deanery shares



Like many other deaneries in the diocese, Towcester Deanery has made it a priority to encourage all its parishes to pay their Parish Share in full. The Rural Dean, Fr John Hall, explains more:

“It’s serious stuff, Parish Share, not a whim. It reflects how much it costs to run our operation. We all want to have clergy to minister and things happening in the church. That’s why we’re tackling this as a deanery.

We try to encourage mutuality. This is a share between parishes. If your parish does not pay, it does not affect “the diocese” but the next village. Of course we understand if a parish cannot pay for particular reasons, but if you actively decide not to pay, you must admit this publicly. There is no anonymity. It is a decision that has consequences for your neighbours.

We invite parishes to be candid and open with each other about these matters. We are there as a resource for each other, sharing ideas and strategies for making the most of our finances.

We are tremendously grateful for the work and effort that people put in and we are not cross if in a particular year a parish cannot pay in full. However, we encourage everyone to continue to see Parish Share as a high priority.”

Parish says, it’s good to pay

Last year All Saints Church in Peterborough paid the Parish Share in full for the first time in several years. They had made a deliberate decision to increase their giving to do so. John Asplin, their Stewardship Committee Chairman, explains:

“Stewardship giving is one of the most important parts of the parish church. You need it to pay your parish share and your day to day running costs. It helps to know how much you will be getting in every month

We felt that we needed a parish priest to take over when Father David retired. One of our churchwardens pushed us all very hard to give. We had extra collections and extra events. More importantly, we prayed for a new priest.

By a lot of hard work, our treasurer was able to find some extra money, but we still needed another £3,000. One Sunday morning the churchwarden got home from church after begging the congregation for this extra money. She found an envelope through her letterbox with a cheque for £1,000.

It was through asking the congregation for their help and prayer that we were able to make full payment of our Parish Share.

This year we are asking people to increase their giving to pay the Parish Share in full. Paul Adams, the Diocesan Stewardship Adviser has spoken to the congregation and we also asked a visiting priest to talk to us about giving.

It has been very good to be able to say that we have paid our Parish Share in full.”



Members of the Stewardship Committee at All Saints, Peterborough

Juggling priorities in a small, rural church

“We’re a small church with an average Sunday attendance of seven. We have been working hard for years to raise money through grants and other fundraising to restore two historic effigies in the church. We also installed a kitchen unit and toilet so that the church is a welcoming place for visitors.

At the same time we know how important it is to pay our Parish Share, because we need not just a building but a priest.

It’s been a struggle but at last the building project is completed and again we managed to pay our share.

We would love it if local residents felt a greater responsibility for the church building. It is such an asset to the village.”

Marion Wilson, Churchwarden at Ashton St Michael & All Angels



Mrs Kath Lever opens the new kitchen at Ashton

Be a generous and joyful giver



At the heart of Christianity is Jesus Christ giving himself for us. As we think of his suffering and death we can sing with the hymn writer:

*Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life,
my all.*

Our right response is to give ourselves wholly and willingly to him. That is the basis of our thinking about giving to the church. If we belong to Jesus then all we possess belongs to him too. Giving a tenth of our income or some other amount is a sign that

all our resources are at his disposal. Learning to be generous givers is central to discipleship.

People sometimes say they can only give if they know and approve exactly where their money is going. These pages about how we spend Parish Share income in our diocese may help you to do this. But remember also that as Christians we belong to something bigger than ourselves. Perhaps we all need to understand the vision and the activities of our Church – as Bishop I want to help the diocese communicate these things effectively.

But the key to giving is to remember that in giving to the church we are giving to Jesus Christ in response to his self-giving for us. May our response to him be generous, joyful and sacrificial.

Bishop Donald

Giving in a recession

When times are hard, some question whether the church should be talking about money. A Church of England campaign, *Giving for Life*, argues that ceasing to do so would suggest wrongly that our giving should be from surplus. The campaign, soon to be launched in our diocese, provides a framework for churches to review their giving.

See www.parishresources.org.uk/givingforlife/ for more details.



This special pull-out section on diocesan finances explains how the money that parishes pay is used to build up the church.

If you would like additional copies of this section, please contact:

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The Diocese of Peterborough

Fair shares

From time to time you may have heard PCC members at your church remarking on the substantial sum of “Parish Share” to be paid to the diocese, in addition to the local running expenses of your church and its building.

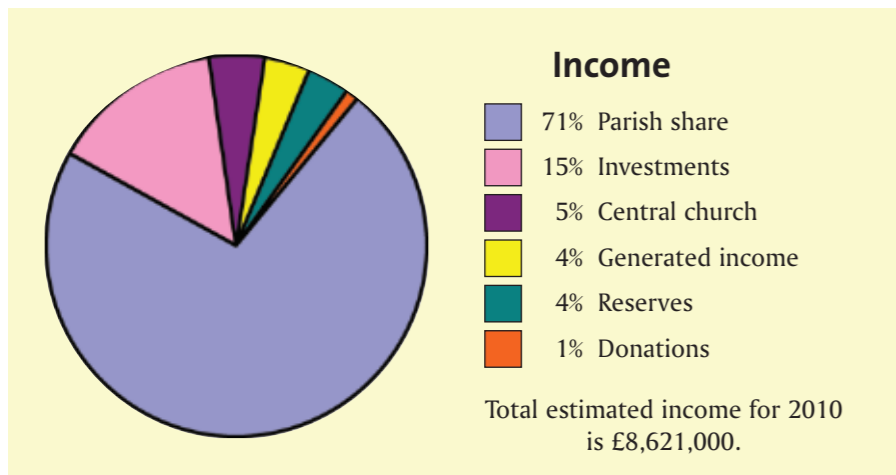
It’s surprising how many people are not at all sure what this Parish Share pays for. Some think that it disappears to Peterborough as a kind of “diocesan tax”.

This is far from the case as these pages show. In fact Parish Share pays for the ministry of clergy and others that takes place in each parish.

The amount of Share each parish pays is carefully worked out so that smaller churches pay less and larger churches pay more. Churches within a group, benefice or deanery can decide locally how to share out the amount to be paid so that it is fair.

Investing in people, extending the Kingdom

The diocesan budget for 2010 was set by the Diocesan Synod, which represents all churches in the diocese, in October 2009. This page offers an introduction to how diocesan income is used. Most of this cash comes from the Parish Share paid by our churches.



Clergy stipends and housing



There are around 135 stipendiary (paid) clergy in the diocese, and 45 self supporting (unpaid) clergy. These figures include curates. The current clergy stipend is £22,760.

The diocese owns and maintains about 180 parsonage houses which are used both for stipendiary clergy and for those in "house for duty" posts. Those not currently required are rented out at commercial rates or sold.

Clergy training

The academic training of ordinands is paid for from central Church funds, to which all dioceses contribute. In addition, each diocese pays towards married ordinands' expenses during full-time courses. There are currently 18 people from Peterborough Diocese in training for ordained ministry. The diocese provides a programme of post-ordination training for those returning as curates.

Once clergy have completed their initial training, they continue to be offered training and support, guided by an annual review. High quality Continuing Ministerial Education events are organised in the diocese. Clergy can also use a small annual grant towards attending conferences or events elsewhere.

"I feel very thankful to churches in the diocese for helping to pay for my training. It's been the most wonderful time of growth. Paying for ministry training does not yield instant benefits. These are investments for the long term."

Catherine Dobson, Curate at Broughton with Loddington & Cransley & Thorpe Malsor



Church schools



There are 104 Church schools in the diocese. The Local Authority pays their running costs but the diocese supports their distinctive Christian ethos through training, advice and mentoring. The Board of Education also assists with building and other major school development projects.

"Headship can be a lonely road. I value being able to pick up the phone and speak to the same person. The pastoral and prayer support from the diocese is invaluable".

Barbara Crellin, Head of St Nicholas CEVA Primary School, Cottesmore

Adult education

The Adult Education Department provides numerous short courses and training days for anyone who would like to gain skills and knowledge for use in their church. They also help individual parishes and deaneries with custom-made training. A major aspect of their work is the training of licensed lay ministers (Lay Pastoral Ministers, Licensed Evangelists and Readers).

It is a great encouragement that a steady stream of people come forward for training for licensed lay ministry each year. There are 60 currently in training, and around 250 already ministering in our parishes.

"Lay ministry training helps you to grow as a Christian servant. The most humbling and electrifying thing is learning with Christians from other traditions than your own. You emerge excited, confident and ready to serve."



Jan Lowe, Lay Pastoral Minister Werrington, Peterborough

Specialist advice for parishes



The Bishop's Officers, including the Safeguarding Officer, Mission Enabler, Children's Missioner, Social Responsibility Adviser and Stewardship and Funding Officer are a resource to parishes. They provide training, individual

advice and practical encouragement. Some of these officers also assist with strategic developments such as ministry in new housing areas. Honorary officers are also available to advise within special areas of expertise such as the needs of disabled people, the environment and ecumenical matters.



"It was just what I needed at exactly the right time to give me the confidence, skills and ideas to work with and understand children".

Participant in the CORE Skills for Working with Children course led by Rona Orme, Children's Missioner



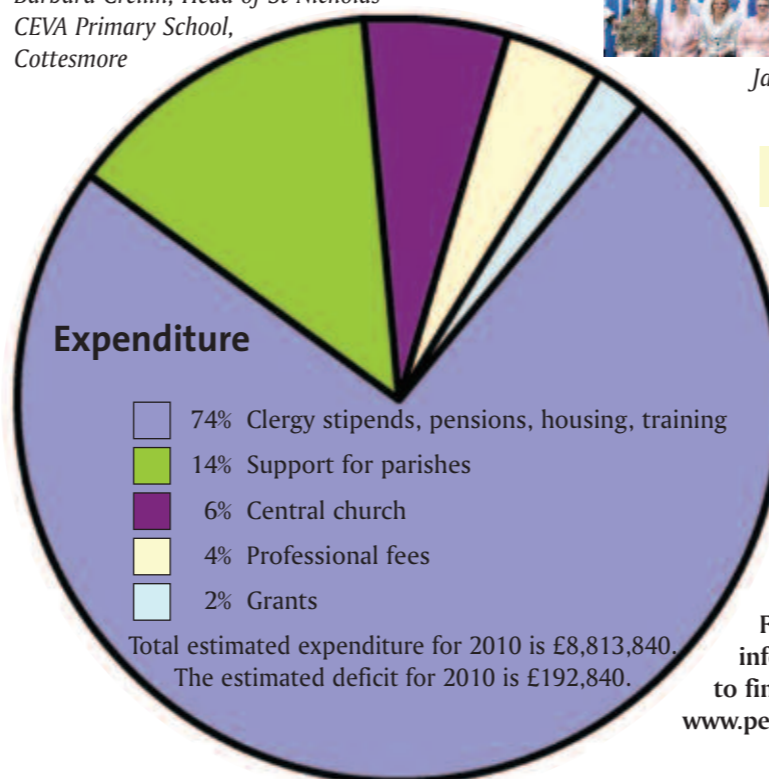
Clergy pensions

In 1997 the full cost of clergy pensions was transferred from the Church Commissioners to the dioceses. This means a contribution of £8,838pa towards the pension of each serving stipendiary clergy person. Like many other pension schemes, it is currently under review.

"The vast majority of retired clergy continue to fulfil a vital role in the ministry of the church. Without them the Church of England would be in crisis." Haydn Smart, one of four Chaplains to retired clergy in the diocese.



Photo: A recent gathering for retired clergy.



Professional fees

Professional legal, accountancy and property agents' services are needed for the correct operation of a Registered Charity.

Grants

Discretionary grants to organisations and individuals.

For more detailed financial information follow the links to finance on website: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Central church

This is the payment made to the Central church, of which a large portion is returned as grants for specific purposes such as the development of ministry in new housing areas.

