

Parish Share – a basic guide

Parish Share in the Diocese of Liverpool is a form of mission giving and a system of mutual support through which the costs of Missional Leadership are shared. These are the costs of clergy stipends, pensions, housing and training, along with funding for deaneries. Parish Share does not pay for the work of St James' House services. Each parish is assessed using a formula based on church attendance figures and government deprivation statistics. Only through Parish Share can we guarantee a Christian presence in all communities in our Diocese so that we can see a bigger church to make a bigger difference.

Funding the costs of Missional Leadership

The total budget for Missional Leadership in 2018 is £9,218,000, made up of:

- £5,863,000 – 151 Incumbent-status parish clergy
- £1,068,000 – 30 Assistant Curates
- £475,000 – 10 Bishop's Appointments
- £808,000 – Training for Ministry and National Church contributions
- £736,000 - Deanery Mission and Growth Funding, paid directly to deaneries
- £153,000 – Supporting Church Schools
- £115,000 – Mission grants

Parish Share raises £7,693,000 (£7,635,000 after discount for direct debit payment), covering 80% of the above costs, and the Church Commissioners fund the remaining 20%.

Parish Share Assessment

Parish Share is set using a formula based on Church attendance figures and government Indices of Multiple Deprivation. A large worshipping community in a less deprived parish is expected to pay more than a smaller worshipping community in a more deprived parish. Parish Share is assessed annually to reflect increases in the costs of missional leadership.

The assessment system has two stages. An initial calculation based on current statistics sets a core 'uncapped' Parish Share and a second process introduces upper and lower limits to the percentage increase that each Parish faces in any year, along with setting a minimum Parish Share and a maximum Parish Share.

The first stage begins by calculating a parish score (a) based on attendance (including Minimum Parish Share attendance) and socio-economic factor, then dividing that score by the combined total of all parish scores (b). The resulting figure is then multiplied by the total Parish Share (c) required to give the Parish Share assessment for each parish.

An example calculation based on a parish with attendance of 80 and a socio-economic factor of 0.80 would look like this:

a) Parish score calculation – $80 \times 0.8 = 64$

- b) Parish score as a proportion of all parish scores - $64 \div 17000 = 0.0038$
- c) Parish Share Assessment - $0.0038 \times \pounds 7,600,000 = \pounds 28,612$

The second stage of the calculation introduces a maximum parish share and an upper and lower limit on annual increases. In 2018 that upper limit on increases for most parishes was 6.5% and the lower limit was 2%.

Minimum and Maximum Parish Share

The Parish Share system sets a minimum Parish Share and a maximum Parish Share. Minimum Parish Share sets a minimum level of attendance for use in the Parish Share assessments. Minimum attendances are banded according to socio-economic factor, being 31 for the most deprived parishes, 38 for the middle band and 46 for the least deprived. Any parish with attendance lower than the relevant minimum will be assessed using the applicable minimum attendance figure. Maximum Parish Share sets an upper limit for most parishes and in 2018 this figure is $\pounds 124,000$.

Capped and Uncapped Parish Share

Parish Share assessments display both a 'capped' and 'uncapped' figure. The capped figure is the current Parish Share assessment that each parish pays, whilst the uncapped figure represents the amount that would be payable should all smoothing and transitional arrangements be worked through. In effect, the uncapped figure would be the amount payable if no parameters were placed on the extent of annual increases. Transitional arrangements and smoothing mechanisms form part of the system to ensure that changes to Parish Share each year are more sustainable than larger unexpected swings might be.

Parish Share Payment

Full and prompt payment of Parish Share is essential to ensure that we can sustainably fund the full costs of Missional Leadership. We offer a 1% discount to any parish paying monthly under our direct debit scheme.

The majority of parishes pay in full and promptly every month with generosity and commitment to the principle of mutual support. Any parish not paying in full relies on the generosity of other parishes elsewhere in the Diocese. The amount of Parish Share requested is set at exactly the level required to fund Missional Leadership, once National Church funding is accounted for. No provision is made in the amount requested for non-payment and so every pound unpaid is a pound less for mission and ministry.

When a Parish falls into arrears, the following will occur:

1. The relevant Deanery will see its Mission and Growth Fund reduced, until arrears are repaid
2. The Parish will be expected to commit to a Parish Share Payment Plan
3. Clergy vacancies in the parish will remain unfilled until the situation is resolved.

Further information

Further information, including the Parish Share working group's full report to synod, is available on our website at www.liverpool.anglican.org/parishshare or from St James' House. For queries and support on Parish Share please contact St James' House.