

Diocesan Finances

Frequently Asked Questions



What does Share pay for?

Parish share is your church's contribution towards local ministry and our shared responsibility to sustain the Church's mission across the diocese.

It **pays** for: clergy stipends, pensions, clergy housing, training, our future clergy (ordinands and curates), vocations, safeguarding training and DBS checks, church buildings support and quinquennials, pastoral reorganisation support, giving and fundraising support and advice, advice and guidance from the Registry and Chancellor and financial support.

It **does not** pay for: Salisbury Cathedral, Cathedral staff, Bishops or the Bishop's house, Jersey or Guernsey deaneries.

What are the costs of the team in Emmaus House?

Who pays for them?

There are 50 FTE (full time equivalent) staff working from Emmaus House, around 40 are paid through parish share, whereas the remaining 10 are funded through external funds, to deliver specific pieces of work like Net Zero advice, community engagement and delivering our vision and strategy. The vast majority of the staff support parishes, such as in safeguarding, maintenance of clergy homes, church buildings support, parish support, financial advice and fundraising. The costs of employing staff come out of the total economy of the diocese; 78 per cent of income comes from Parish Share and the remainder from investments and other income. Where there have been extra staff recruited in recent years, these are mainly in areas of compliance – safeguarding, church buildings and human resources, to support and enable parishes and the DBF to fulfil their legal responsibilities.

The central overheads of running Emmaus House just 7 per cent of the 2025 budget – much lower than many other similar sized charities.

How can the DBF report annual operating deficits for over two decades, while its total funds continue to grow?

More than 2/3rds (69%) of our assets are clergy houses (c. 216). The values of these properties have increased considerably so the profit we make from selling clergy houses far exceeds the cumulative losses we have been reporting. However this approach is unsustainable: not only will we run out of houses to sell, but more importantly, we require around 175 houses for our clergy and curates to support their ministry. Selling houses also reduces our opportunity to receive rental income from these properties when they are vacant and therefore it affects both our balance sheet and it reduces our sources of income which puts more and more pressure on parish share.

Why don't the Church Commissioners spend their money investing in clergy in parishes?

The Church Commissioners support parishes in many different ways. Some parts of the country qualify for Low Income Communities Funding, but Salisbury does not qualify. It does however get support through many other ways – including initial funding for our giving team, paying for contactless devices, warmer spaces grants, net zero funding, church buildings support and bishops offices and bishop's and bishop's chaplain stipends. Dioceses can also bid for funding for strategic projects which focus on growing the Church sustainably, in line with the national Church strategy to grow younger and more diverse.

Why are the Commissioners investing in a slavery fund but not in rural churches?

The slavery fund is a ringfencing of £100 million (1%) of the Church Commissioners £10 billion of assets to produce income for communities still ravaged by the legacy of transatlantic slavery. The funds of the Church Commissioners today derived from the Queen Anne's bounty, which had links to African chattel enslavement. The money raised through careful investment of the £100 million will produce grants for projects which improve opportunities for communities still scarred by slavery today. No money from the fund will come from parish share, or donations from church goers today. In contrast, £1.2 billion of Church Commissioners funds provided has approximately 20 percent of the running costs of the Church of England in the last three years.

You can find out more about diocesan finances by visiting
salisbury.anglican.org/supportforparishes/finance