

2026 06 24 DS Motion on Ministry in LINC Parishes- Supplementary Information

As part of preparing for this motion, I believed it was important to hear from others across the diocese who live and minister in LINC parishes. I invited responses from a number of deprived parishes in the diocese, according to diocesan data [please see reverse for top 15, those receiving share relief in yellow]. Whilst I did not receive a reply from some, others did get in touch, including with comments from the congregation. Without assessment I reproduce- with their permission- some of the comments made:

"I find that the financial strain of being a low income community a tangible strain and, because I know the reality of life for many, it's harder to ask for an increase in giving. Coupled with the pessimistic picture re finances painted by the diocese, anxieties about money and resourcing dominate decision making. It's much harder to get new initiatives off the ground - even when we've been gifted some Mission Hub funding.

That said, there are blessings. In general, the financial pressure has increased our dependence and given many a sense of mutual reliance. Many sacrificially give in ways that go beyond finances.

In terms of the diocese, I'd love to see greater recognition of the strain on parish resources and finances, even in the face of diocesan financial concerns. It sometimes feels like the answer to the DBF financial crisis is for parishes simply to give more. That may be possible for some, but not necessarily for all LInC parishes. We pay our share in full, but at great cost to other initiatives we'd love to develop. When other wealthier parishes don't pay share in favour of internal projects, it can be discouraging..."

"I don't feel helped by the diocese, and I don't look to it for support"

"LINC parishes remind the wider Church of an important truth, the places least able to fund ministry are often the places where ministry is most needed.

We are a church rich in welcome, compassion, resilience and faithfulness. We serve communities facing enormous challenge, yet continue to proclaim the Gospel in places where hope can often be in short supply.

Churches such as ours who serve deprived communities are not simply churches with needs. They are communities undertaking some of the Church's most vital and demanding mission, and they need the active support of the wider Church in order to continue that work."

"As I see it, churches in better positions financially should help the poorer churches in the Diocese. We are all trying to build God's kingdom".

Legal_Name	Local_Name	Benefice Code	Benefice Name	Deanery ID	Deanery Name	Parish Population (2021 census)	IMD Rank (of 12,161 Nationally)	Parish IMD Percentile (Low is more deprived)
West Howe Saint Philip Littlemoor	West Howe St. Philip Littlemoor	34/363A	West Howe	34203	Poole and North Bournemouth	7,079	361	3%
St. Paul Weymouth	Weymouth: St Paul	34/374R	Weymouth Ridgeway	34105	WEYMOUTH and PORTLAND	5,065	742	6%
Portland All Saints with Saint And	Weymouth: St Paul	34/376 J	Weymouth Saint Paul with Fleet	34105	WEYMOUTH and PORTLAND	8,233	949	8%
Holy Trinity, Weymouth	Portland	34/270BF	Portland	34105	WEYMOUTH and PORTLAND	13,548	1,426	12%
St. James with St. Paul Poole	Weymouth: Holy Trinity	34/373 F	Weymouth H Trin	34105	WEYMOUTH and PORTLAND	6,939	2,027	17%
St. Andrew Kinson	Poole: St James w St Paul	34/267 P	Poole	34203	Poole and North Bournemouth	6,528	2,138	18%
Compton Abbas	Kinson St Andrew	34/195A	Kinson	34203	Poole and North Bournemouth	13,579	2,228	18%
Fontnell Magna	Compton Abbas: St Mary the Vi	34/300DH	Shaftesbury	34106	Blackmore Vale	207	2,320	19%
Melbury Abbas	Fontnell Magna: St Andrew	34/188DT	Iwerne Valley	34202	MILTON & BLANDFORD	575	2,320	19%
Sutton Waldron	Melbury Abbas: St Thomas	34/300DH	Shaftesbury	34106	Blackmore Vale	460	2,320	19%
Trowbridge	Sutton Waldron: St Bartholome	34/188DT	Iwerne Valley	34202	MILTON & BLANDFORD	216	2,320	19%
St. Clement Branksome	Trowbridge: St James	34/347BR	Trowbridge Saint James and Keevil	34402	BRADFORD	11,366	2,461	20%
Bemerton	Branksome: St Clement	34/042 J	Branksome St Clem	34203	Poole and North Bournemouth	12,050	2,508	21%
Maiden Bradley	Bemerton: St Michael & All Ang	34/018BK	Bemerton	34305	SALISBURY	11,066	2,570	21%
	Maiden Bradley: All Saints	34/349CK	Upper Stour with Maiden Bradley	34307	Heytesbury	331	2,599	21%