

The Shared Ministry Fund

Sustaining ministry, changing lives



What is the Shared Ministry Fund?

The Shared Ministry Fund – previously known as Parish Share – is how parishes across the Diocese of Salisbury share the cost of ministry and the practical support that helps churches flourish.

Every parish contributes to one common fund. Together, our giving supports local ministry today and helps build a sustainable future for our churches, enabling them to worship, serve their communities, welcome everyone and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

It is about more than paying for the parish's clergy. It's about sustaining ministry and a Christian presence in our diocese now and for generations to come.

Why does it matter?



Across our diocese, churches help people to worship and explore faith, to mark life's significant moments, to find friendship and support, to respond to poverty and injustice.

Your giving helps churches to:

- **Worship and grow in faith** – creating space for prayer, questions, reflection and a deeper relationship with God
- **Be there for life's big moments** – celebrating weddings and baptisms, supporting people through illness and loss and offering pastoral care at times of change
- **Bring people together** – creating a warm welcome, friendship and a place to belong
- **Respond with compassion** – supporting people facing poverty, working for justice and listening to voices that can too easily go unheard.

Your parish serves its own community while helping sustain ministry in our wider diocesan family.

What does the fund support?



Contributions support local ministry and the practical help that enables parishes to operate safely and confidently.

- **Ministry in our communities** – stipends, pensions and housing for paid clergy, as well as training and ongoing wellbeing support for clergy, curates and self-supporting ministers
- **Future ministry** – equipping those who are called to lead and serve
- **Safe, confident churches** – safeguarding and DBS support, building inspections, governance, legal advice and practical guidance
- **Mission and parish life** – help with giving, grants, parish trusts, buildings, pastoral reorganisation, children and young people and church schools
- **Responsible diocesan support** – the finance, technology, people and governance functions that are necessary to run the DBF well as a charity.

Some benefices give more than the cost of the ministry they receive. They help sustain ministry in those places where local giving cannot meet the full cost. This mutual support is at the heart of the Shared Ministry Fund scheme.

Based on the 2027 budget, **89p of every £1** of regular expenditure **directly supports ministry in our parishes** and the services that make it possible.



How is our request worked out?



Each benefice receives a suggested contribution based on two consistent measures:

60%

Ministry provision

Based on the agreed number and type of clergy posts serving the benefice.

40%

Worshipping Community

Based on the number of regular worshippers aged over 25.

The calculation begins with the benefice, reflecting how clergy and ministry are shared across its parishes. Worshipping Community numbers suggest each parish's share, but the benefice may agree a different split. Rebates, reliefs, discounts and transition arrangements may then apply, reflecting relevant local circumstances.



Want to know more? See the [2027 Shared Ministry Fund Guide](#) for the calculation, definitions, timetable and adjustments. For the wider financial picture and path to sustainability, see the [Diocese of Salisbury Budget Guide 2027](#).