

## A GUIDE TO THE COMMON FUND

### What is the Diocese of London?

The Diocese of London is made up of over five hundred parishes and worshipping communities across diverse communities, with more than 90,000 regular worshippers. We also work with 161 Church Schools and chaplaincies across prisons, hospitals, and educational institutions.

### What is the Common Fund?

The Common Fund is how all parts of the Diocese collaborate financially to pay for local ministry. It provides for parish ministry and support across the Diocese, irrespective of local financial position, in more than 500 churches working in our communities to enable Londoners to encounter the love of God in Christ.

The fund brings together the contributions of local churches with diocesan income to provide and pay for stipendiary priests, clergy housing, support for parish clergy and congregations (like safeguarding, and children and youth), and to train the next generation of ministers.

Support flows especially to those working in our poorest communities, going through difficult financial times, or starting new mission initiatives. In the New Testament, we see Christians pooling their resources (Acts 2) and better resourced churches supporting poorer/financially struggling churches very different from themselves (2 Corinthians 8 and 9) – all according to means and need.

**This is why it's called the Common Fund.  
We work together.**

### How does each church decide what to contribute?

In deciding on your contribution for 2026, your PCC is invited to consider:

- 1 Your context** – Each church's resources and reserves, potential for giving and income, financial commitments already made, and the shape of a budget is unique.
- 2 A benchmark** – The diocesan finance team estimates the costs in 2026 of paying for stipendiary ministry, housing, clergy training, and professional parish support. A London Ministry Cost benchmark figure (see below) is calculated for a parish reflecting what is received. It is not a demand or invoice, but an indication of the investment planned by the diocese to which we invite contribution.
- 3 Our suggestion** – The letter from your Archdeacon and Area Giving & Finance Adviser explains a suggested contribution based on what they know of your context and of the wider needs of churches across the Area and Diocese. We hope this will be a helpful place to start.

**PCCs are invited to make a pledge which is realistic, challenging, and generous.**

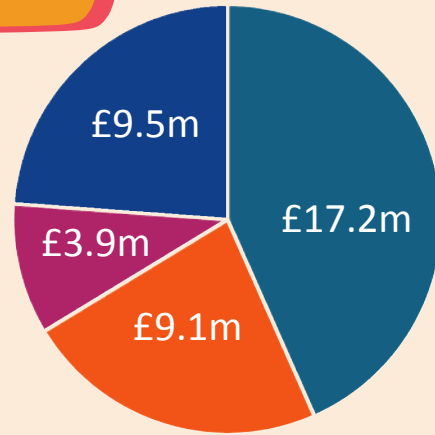




# DIOCESE OF LONDON

## 2025 BUDGETED EXPENDITURE

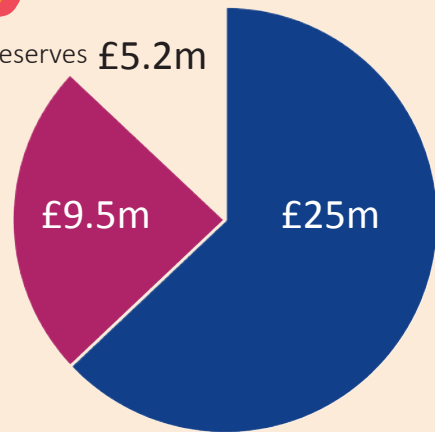
- Stipendiary clergy
- Clergy housing
- Training new clergy
- Parish and clergy support



## 2025 BUDGETED INCOME

Gap met from diocesan reserves £5.2m

- Parish Common Fund contributions
- Other Diocesan income (investments, rents, trusts etc.)



### How can we find out more?

A range of further information is available from the diocesan website

- London Ministry Cost benchmark** – a detailed breakdown of what this budget seeks to provide
- FAQs** – a range of questions that have been asked in previous years on Common Fund, the diocesan budget, and CofE finances
- Common Fund meeting slide deck and recording**
- Slide deck for PCC meetings**

[Click here to visit the website](#)

SCAN ME





# DIOCESE OF LONDON

**LAST YEAR,  
YOUR PARISH COMMON FUND CONTRIBUTIONS  
MADE MINISTRY POSSIBLE ACROSS THE  
DIOCESE THROUGH:**

**518** stipendiary clergy

Further training and support for over

**800** other clergy and licensed lay ministers

**50** new clergy ordained

**130** ordinands in training



**2,850** clergy housing repairs and maintenance

**628** gas safety inspections

**118** electrical inspections on clergy housing



**300** applications for changes to church buildings supported



Safeguarding training delivered to over **1,000** people



**3,808** DBS checks carried out

**100** parishes equipped and supported to use digital giving



Click here to visit the website

SCAN ME

