

COMMON FUND

What is it?

Common Fund is money given by congregations in every parish in the Diocese of London.

It is collected from rich and poor parishes, to provide and support clergy, and to further our work in every parish, across London. That is why our contributions are called the "Common Fund"; they are made by everyone, for everyone. Generous giving by congregations enables the Diocese to respond to the London Challenge; to maintain ministry and enable mission in all parts of the Diocese of London.

The Church of England receives no money from the state for mission or ministry.

Why should we pay?

We should contribute to Common Fund

- to enable the Church to work throughout London
- as a sign of our commitment to proclaim Christ's Gospel
- to share our resources with our fellow Christians
- because we recognise the importance of our Church's future mission for the future
- in thanks for God's generosity towards us
- because we believe wholeheartedly in our Christian faith

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Diocesan finances

In 2009 we estimate that we will need about £26 million to sustain the Church of England in London. 75% of this is needed simply to house and pay the clergy, and to provide for their pensions.

The Diocese of London is fortunate in that it has some resources from "yesterday's congregations" which are invested in property and funds. The income is used to help pay the costs of keeping clergy in parishes, and to contribute towards the wider work of the Church of England. In 2007 the costs of £23.2 million were met through £17.0 million raised in Common Fund and £6.3 million being provided by investments and other income.

Briefly, money comes in from

- parishes (Common Fund)
- rents and investments
- other donations

and the Diocese spends it on

- paying parish clergy, including pension, NI, Council Tax
- housing for clergy
- training for new priests and existing clergy
- giving to other less well off dioceses in England
- developing lay ministry
- supporting parishes in many other ways

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What is the average cost of a parish?

The basic running costs of the parish; heating, lighting, insurance, repairs, services etc; are paid for by the congregation. On top of this, supporting one full time priest in a parish and paying a fair share of the costs of other activities will amount to around £62,000 per parish in 2009.

This can be roughly divided into 3 parts:

- We pay the parish priest approx 1/3
- We have to pay pension and provide a house approx 1/3
- We have to train new clergy, support parishes in many ways, help schools, help the wider church approx 1/3

A simple breakdown of the £62,000 is given below:

(approx. figures for 2009)	£
Stipend	20,880
National Insurance (NI)	1,220
Pension contributions	7,770
Moving and resettlement grants	630
Council Tax	1,900
Housing	8,920
Training new clergy	7,220
Schools, Chaplaincies, Outreach	2,170
Areas and Deaneries	3,700
Parish Support Services	5,030
National Church	2,970
Total	62,410

Further detail is available on the web site www.london.anglican.org/finance.

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Who decides how much a parish pays?

Each parish's PCC decides.

Each parish is told the costs of keeping its clergy and its share of other costs. The PCC makes an offer based on its knowledge of its own finances and diocesan finances. The offer reflects the parish's ability to give as well as how much it costs to run the parish. Not all parishes can give this full amount, so the generosity of past generations supports parishes that cannot meet their full costs. However, this inheritance is limited, so for the Church to continue to be present in poor and deprived areas of London, as well as in rich areas, the less well-off, poor parishes depend on the generous, committed and sacrificial giving of better-off parishes.

In 2008 we hope to collect over £18,200,000 through Common Fund.

In 2009 we estimate we will need over £19,100,000 in Common Fund and £7,200,000 from rents, investments and other donations in order to meet our commitments;
a total of £26,300,000.

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What happens if the Diocese doesn't receive enough Common Fund?

In past years when contributions to the Common Fund have not been sufficient there have been reductions in clergy and lay posts. In some parishes self-supporting clergy have been appointed, or two parishes have been put together. This may have to happen again if sufficient funds are not available. Selling property and reducing central costs will not provide a long term solution to a lack of income.

Some facts

There are over 500 stipendiary (paid) clergy across the diocese.

Another 150 non-stipendiary (unpaid) clergy are self-supporting.

Over 300 additional clergy minister in an honorary capacity.

There are over 400 parishes in the Diocese of London.

Almost 200 parishes are in areas classified as 'deprived'.

There are 147 Church Schools.

Please use the web site www.london.anglican.org/London-Challenge to find out more about plans to maintain and grow the Church in London.

The Diocese of London



Common Fund: A Resource for Mission in London

The London Diocesan Fund is registered in England as a company limited by guarantee, # 150856. Charity #241083. Registered office 36 Causton Street, London, SW1P 4AU.

www.london.anglican.org