

Parish Share Restricted Fund

The Diocese of Chichester is committed to resourcing ministry and mission across all our communities in Sussex. The Diocese is dependent on parish share income to do this, as the income from parish share funds clergy stipends, clergy pension contributions, clergy housing, clergy training and parish support services. We are concerned that some parishes do not feel able to participate fully in the diocesan household of faith at this time because of the decisions taken by General Synod on LLF, and so are offering an alternative parish share mechanism on an interim basis.

The fund was introduced in July 2023 on a temporary basis. As of summer 2025, some 20 parishes contribute around £1.7 million through the fund annually. In July 2025 the Bishop's Council took the decision to extend the fund for a further two years, and it will next be reviewed in 2027, at which point the Diocese will review the arrangement, in consultation with parishes.

- The restricted Parish Share fund is available to those parishes who otherwise would pause their parish share contributions. The fund will be separately disclosed in the DBF's accounts and therefore subject to auditors' scrutiny.
- The restricted fund will be used to support the costs of providing ministry in those parishes who are affiliated to a network which is known to hold conservative / traditional convictions on marriage, parishes which the chair of the Chichester Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship confirms hold those convictions, and any other parishes which ask to join the scheme. Relevant networks include Sussex Gospel Partnership, the Chichester Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship, HTB/CRT, New Wine, Renew, Church Society and The Society.
- The fund will be used to finance the following costs in those parishes:
 - clergy stipends, national insurance, apprenticeship levy, pension contributions and housing costs, including for curates in those parishes;
 - ministry support including clergy grants;
 - a contribution towards the cost of safeguarding services.
- It will not be used to finance other costs such as stipends for clergy in parishes not affiliated to a relevant network or national church contributions.

A parish wishing to contribute through the fund should contact the Finance Director or Diocesan Secretary. Once a parish has notified the Diocese of this, all Parish Share contributions will be treated as restricted until otherwise notified.