

# Understanding Centenary Share

**Centenary Share is a system to share the costs of mission and ministry between every parish. Full payment is essential if we are to fulfil our calling to 'Grow in God'.**

- It is based on the real cost of ministry
- Around 69% of the diocesan budget is spent directly on the cost of parish clergy
- The rest is spent on supporting ministry in parishes, administering the charity and the wider mission of the church
- 80% of the budget has to be raised through the Centenary Share
- Unlike many other dioceses we have very few historic resources and so, of all the 41 dioceses, we are the diocese that is most reliant on contributions from members
- It fulfils our calling to be the Body of Christ, where we all work in partnership with the strong supporting the weak



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of St Edmundsbury  
and Ipswich



# The Real Cost

The Centenary Share allocation system is based on the 'real cost' of ministry within a benefice less a contribution from the wider church (the diocese). The allocation within a benefice is the responsibility of the individual parishes. The Centenary Share can be expressed like this:

$$(A + B + C + D) - E = F$$

**Stipendiary ministry**      **Other ministries**      **Church buildings**      **Mission & Ministry**      **Grants**      **Centenary Share**

**A**

Cost of Stipendiary Ministry. Includes stipend, National Insurance, pension, housing and council tax and continuing ministerial development.

**+B**

Cost of other Ministries. All ministry, even voluntary ministry, has a cost because we endeavour to train, resource and support ministers throughout all their ministry.

**+C**

Cost of church buildings. This relates to the work of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), Chancellor and Registrar.

**+D**

Cost of mission and ministry of the wider church. This covers the cost of providing diocesan ministers who support parishes through training and safeguarding, thus enabling us to exercise mission and ministry. It funds the administrative staff who deal with the day to day administration and compliance issues that are a consequence of being a substantial charity. Payments are made to the national church which includes funding the training of future clergy.

**Subtotal**

**-E**

The diocese is in receipt of grants, income from fees and letting of property as well as a small investment portfolio. This is used to support the cost of ministry and is done on the basis of the number of church buildings in each benefice. There is an additional contribution for benefices based on the level of income deprivation. Where applicable transitional relief is provided.

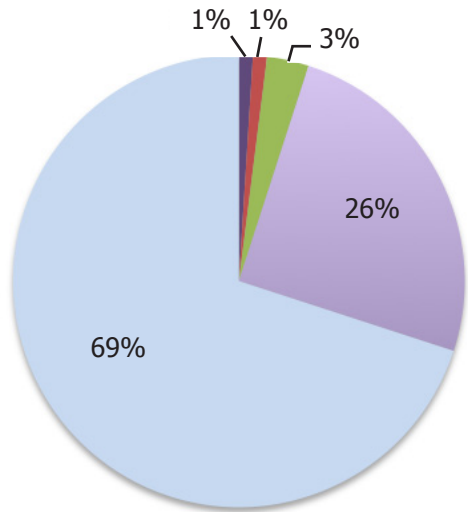
**=F**

The share each benefice is invited to contribute.

# How the money is spent

For every £10 that is spent by the Diocesan Board of Finance, we need to raise £8 through the Centenary Share.

- 1% - Lay ministries
- 1% - Self Supporting ministries
- 3% - Church buildings
- 26% - Wider cost of ministry (including administration, specialist ministers and contributions to the national church)
- 69% - Stipendiary Clergy



The Centenary Share is the contribution of the family of the diocese towards the cost of mission and ministry in the parishes.

- We all contribute because together we can:
- resource mission and ministry in all our parishes
  - develop a partnership in proclaiming the Christian faith
  - continue to develop enthusiastic ministry in every community

# A Partnership

The principle of the Centenary Share is that it should encourage partnership or mutual support within benefices and deaneries; Deanery Organisers are available to assist with this. St Paul often commended churches that worked to support one another and described it as a partnership in the gospel. When one parish agrees to contribute more share than asked for it is an act of generosity that builds partnership.

Sometimes a PCC will say “we have special building works and won’t pay our Share this year”, this is different from the inability to contribute. This is based on the assumption that someone else will pick up the cost of enabling mission and ministry in that parish. As a family we are all in this together and need to support one another. It is reasonable to assume that no parish would think it shouldn’t contribute anything to the family of the diocese. If the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) doesn’t receive all the Share requested then it has to use reserves. At the moment we finance the shortfall in share payment through the sale of surplus vicarages.

Sometimes people ask why charge for ministers, especially if they are volunteers. The Centenary Share is based on the real cost of ministry and is a recognition of the value we place on training, supporting and equipping people to serve both the local church and the wider community. The cost of developing, improving and providing training, continuing development and offering support is part of the ‘package’ that all ministers get in return for their generous service. In a vacancy these costs still apply and ‘savings’ from not paying clergy during vacancies are shared by the whole diocese.

# Everything Starts with Prayer

Generous God,  
whose hand is open  
to fill all things living with plenteousness:  
make us ever thankful for your goodness,  
and grant that we, remembering the account  
that we must one day give,  
may be faithful stewards of your bounty;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(from the Prayer Book for Australia)*

