Truths about Parish Share...

Parish Share expresses our relationship with each other – better off parishes contribute more, helping those parishes with lower incomes.

Parish Share is calculated to facilitate and maintain mutual support between parishes.

Parish Share helps maintain the parish system which puts a Christian presence from the Church of England in every community.

Parish Share covers the pay, housing, resourcing and professional development of our clergy. The total costs are about £56,000 per year.

The amount of Parish Share received across the diocese is less in a typical year than the amount spent on parish ministry.

For further information about Parish Share please contact: finance@stalbans.anglican.org

www.stalbans.anglican.org

Spotlight on...

PARISH SHARE

What’s true and what’s just a myth?
Myths to bust...

There are a number of myths about Parish Share which surface from time to time. This leaflet will help you ‘bust’ them!

‘Parish Share is a tax on parishes.’

No. Parish Share is returned to parishes in the form of parish mission and ministry: clergy pay and housing, training and resourcing. The total Parish Share collected in any year almost, but not quite, pays all of these costs. The shortfall of about three percent is met from Diocesan investment income.

‘I don’t think all the Parish Share can go on paying clergy. We are a large parish and pay well over a clergy stipend.’

Parish Share contributions all go into the common fund out of which all ministry within the diocese is paid. Parishes make contributions based on their church membership and on relative wealth.

‘Parish Share subsidises failing parishes.’

All parishes experience good and bad times. So long as a parish is preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, it cannot be termed a failing parish. Just like the people in the early church after Pentecost, parishes are asked to contribute according to their ability. Through the workings of the Parish Share Scheme, ministry is provided even to parishes that do not have all the resources to pay for their own priest.

‘Parish Share pays for the Diocesan Office, most of which we don’t need.’

The diocese receives rent from glebe land and income from investments for ministry. This effectively offsets the cost to parishes of the work of Diocesan bodies and their staff, such as the Diocesan Advisory Team, Mission Team supporting children and youth work, and other diocesan activities, some statutory and some supporting parish ministry, such as safeguarding or paying and housing clergy.

‘Parish Share penalises growing parishes, doesn’t it?’

It is only right that as church membership grows, so the amount of the request grows. More members means that there are more people to pay the stipend contribution part of the Parish Share. The maximum contribution for new members is phased in over a period of 5 years, so there should be no nasty surprises for growing parishes.

‘Parish Share is illogical. Every parish should pay their own costs.’

The Church of England is an Episcopal church and in our diocese we are under the authority of the Bishop of St Albans. One of the distinctive features of our system is that we share what we have with each other. That is the essence of the Parish Share Scheme – that we all contribute for the common good. If we used a congregational system then many parishes would not be able to afford a parish priest and ministry would be denied to them.

‘We pay our Parish Share and it seems to be enough for a clergy stipend, but we share our Vicar with five other parishes.’

Parish Share requests are not based on the stipend paid to your vicar, but on church membership and relative wealth for that parish.

...And now some truths