

Information for PCCs on Budget and Parish Share 2020



BISHOP JULIAN'S INTRODUCTION

At the heart of our vision for the future of the Diocese of Blackburn is the conviction that, in the power of the Spirit, our churches can grow as more and more people find the joy of life in the Risen Lord.

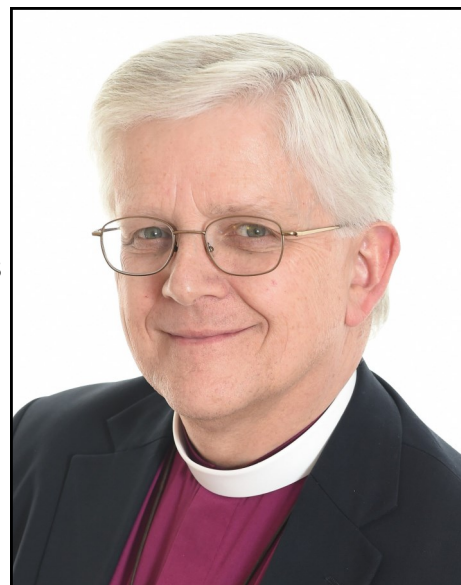
Vision 2026 is a growth plan and it is thrilling to see how it is raising confidence amongst our parishes. Our Leadership and Deployment Strategy sets us the bold ambition of retaining stipendiary clergy numbers at their current level.

Whilst this is good news, it places before us two challenges. The first is around lay and ordained vocations (and the news here is good with a big increase in the number of people offering themselves for Ordination).

The second is around generosity, because as a diocese with minimal historic assets, we can only meet the cost of stipendiary clergy if our people give generously just as Jesus has given so generously to us.

Paul writes to the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 8 v8-9: 'I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich'

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Julian" with a horizontal line underneath.

Pictures on the front page of this document show (clockwise from top left) 2019's cohort of Priests and Deacons, with the Bishops; Vision Champions meet in Clitheroe; Families at Forest Church, St Mark's, Dolphinholme; South Asian Christian Convention celebration service

GENEROSITY, GIFT AND GRACE—A CULTURE CHANGE

One of the outcomes from the Parish Share Review meeting in March 2019, attended by representatives of parishes across the Diocese, was the need for a change of culture. As part of this work the Diocese has been encouraged to prayerfully consider deeply and prayerfully how we all respond to the generosity, gift and grace of God.

Generosity, gift and grace are basic characteristics of the nature of God. He is a generous God, who shows his generosity in creation.

His grace is revealed fully in Jesus Christ and His gift is shown to us in the Holy Spirit and that gift of new life that makes Christian giving possible. Our response to that should be in being a generous people; with actions of being generous givers and in extending generosity to others outside and inside our church community.

For this to become a reality we need to pray that our characters will change, and we will become generous givers.



Prayers for community at Thy Kingdom Come launch service 2019

INVESTMENT IN ORDAINED CLERGY AND LAY LEADERSHIP

Growing leaders is one of the key strands of Vision 2026. Without ordained and lay leaders who are alive with the Gospel and who are formed to grow healthy churches, the aims that the Vision sets out are unachievable.

This budget invests in our Leadership and Development Strategy; maintaining clergy numbers and resourcing lay ministry and leadership. With God's help and with generous giving to support this strategy we will build a strong church in Lancashire for the future.



2019 Readers' licensing service



Cathedral Ordination of Priests 2019



Cathedral Ordination of Deacons 2019



DIY SOS and Children in Need at St Silas, Blackburn



The 2019/2020 cohort for Blackpool Ministry Experience



Clergy from the new Preston Resourcing Parish



M:Power urban mission training centre

Vision 2026 commits us to working towards being Healthy Churches Transforming Communities in the following ways ...

- Making Disciples of Jesus Christ
- Being Witnesses to Jesus Christ
- Growing Leaders for Jesus Christ

... and prioritising work among children, young people and schools to raise up a new generation for Christ.

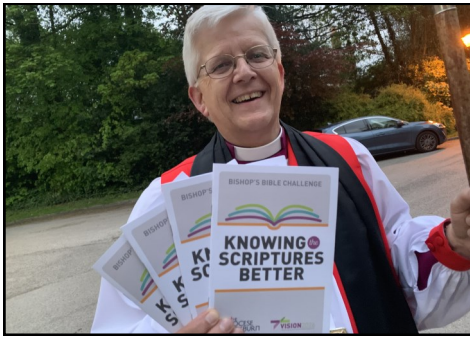
Vision 2026 underpins everything we do as a Diocese.

- It drives our big Strategic Development Funding (SDF) projects comprising of the [Preston Resourcing Church](#); the [Blackpool Ministry Experience](#); the new Church Army Centre of Mission on the [Grange Park Estate](#) in Blackpool and the '[M:Power](#)' urban mission training centre.
- It drives other local projects in parishes including the recent BBC Children in Need/DIY SOS transformation of the former [Parish Rooms of St Silas Church](#) in Blackburn and the '[Heart of the City](#)' community centre planned at St Thomas' Church in Lancaster.
- It drives our Diocesan events ... like [ordinations](#) of Priests and Deacons; the licensing of [Readers](#); this year's [Festival of Baptism](#) at the Cathedral; the [Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage](#); the [Bishop's Bible Challenge](#) including our new 'Knowing the Scriptures Better' booklet; [Board of Education](#) events for schools; [Thy Kingdom Come](#) annual prayer event and much more ...
- And it drives so many other initiatives across the diocese – like the work of [our Vision Champions](#); the [South Asian Christian Convention](#); our Cathedral's [new strategic plan](#); the fabulous [Forest Church initiative](#) which began at St Mark's in Dolphinholme and this year's [pilgrimage to the Holy Land](#) led by Archdeacon Mark.

Everything we do together is focused on making disciples, being witnesses and growing leaders for Jesus Christ. That is our prime objective and generous giving can help us to achieve all we want to do.

All these stories, linked to above, and many more about what we are doing together as a Diocese right now, can be found on the [Diocesan website news section](#) or just explore the website, including the news pages, to get up to speed with the latest exciting developments.

VISION 2026



Bishop's Bible Challenge and 'Knowing the Scriptures Better' booklet



Board of Education's Pendle schools' event at Blackburn Cathedral



The planned 'Heart of the City' community centre at St. Thomas, Lancaster



Workshop at the 2019 Festival of Baptism



Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage



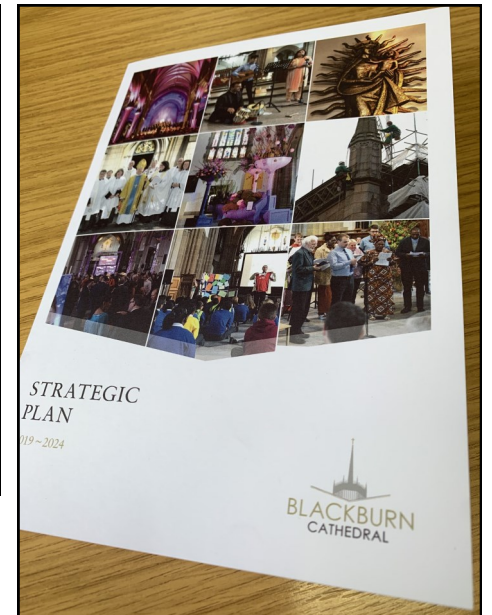
Thy Kingdom Come launch event at Crossgate Church



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



Rev. Peter Lillicrap, with Church Army Captain Matthew Rowley who works on Grange Park



Cathedral strategic plan document

If you are reading the pdf version of this document just click the links to read the stories highlighted here. If you are reading a printed version of this document visit www.blackburn.anglican.org to find out more about Vision 2026 and the 'News and Events' section to read the stories.

LOWER INCOME COMMUNITIES FUNDING (LICF) FROM NATIONAL CHURCH

In 2016, the Church of England changed the method of allocating national funding to dioceses from the 'Darlow Formula' to the Lower income Communities Funding (LICF) grant process.

LICF is provided to dioceses where the average household income in the diocese is less than the national average household income; which is the case in Blackburn and 24 other dioceses.

As LICF is a grant from the national church. There is an expectation that the money is used to support mission to the poorest communities within the diocese (and not for subsidising share across the board). The DBF is required to provide an annual report demonstrating how the LICF has been distributed.

The National Church not only wants the money to go to Lower Income Communities but also for it to be used for growth. The Board of Finance will have to account for how the grants have been spent and what benefit has been seen.

PARISH SHARE: AN OVERVIEW

As churches we are called to be communities of blessing, which happens when we let generosity, gift and grace freely flow through our individual and common lives. This comes from accepting that God's generosity, gift and grace are in abundance. Too often we have a theology of scarcity rather than abundance and it makes us fearful and insecure and can hinder our acceptance of God's abundance.

Looking at Exodus 35 we see a community with abundant, generous, free-will giving; more than enough for the need at hand. It raises the importance of the example and witness set by leaders in encouraging and teaching their people on how to deliberately and thoughtfully make decisions on what to give to reflect abundance and generosity.

Our common life includes a responsibility to the local congregation, to the wider people of God and towards those who are sent out in mission to other places. Our response to this common life has been to cover the costs of mission through a common fund – 'Parish Share' – from the generous giving in parishes.

Those costs of mission include the selection, training, employment, housing and ongoing support of clergy in parishes and non-parish-based clergy working across the wider Diocese.

They also include the common costs of supporting staff for parishes – from legal services to human resources advice and from safeguarding to property management. Then there is support for church schools; mission; discipleship; social outreach projects and much more

Many of these things couldn't be done by a parish acting alone. When we work together, we can ensure that the work we do as a response to God's call is done well.

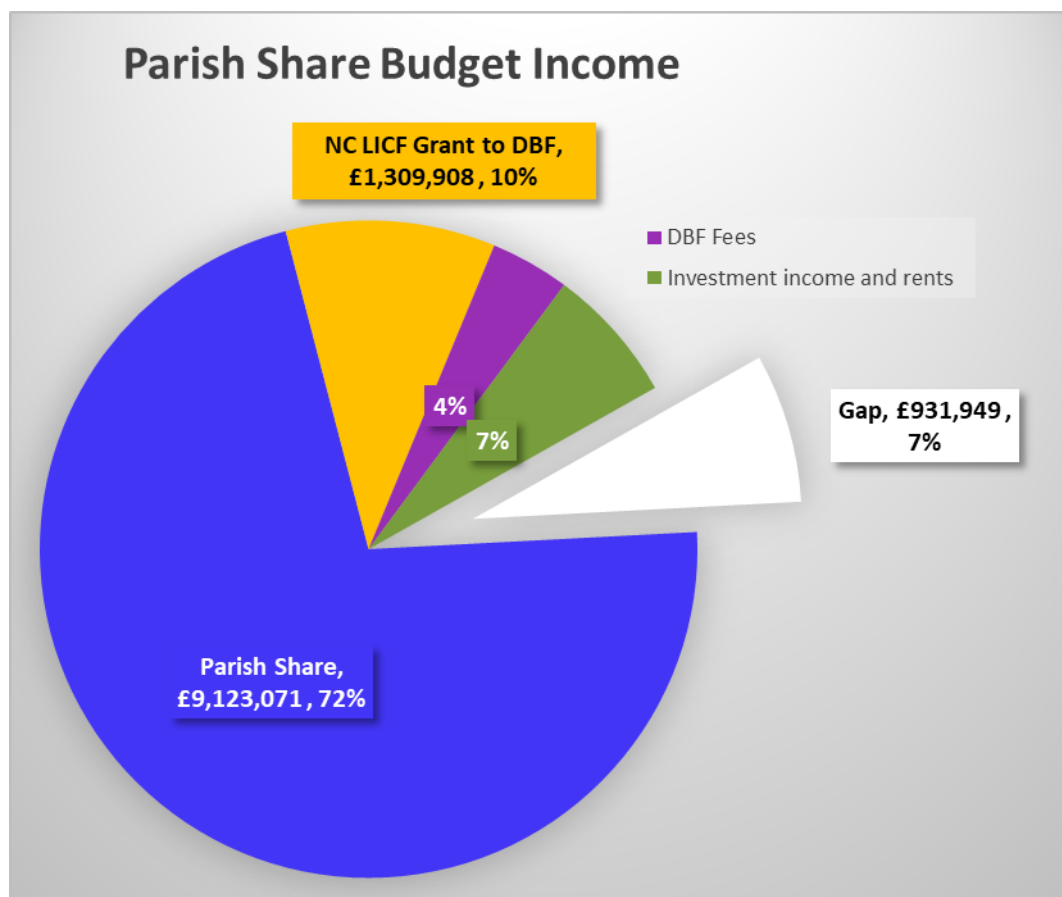
Parish Share is, therefore, a mechanism that is used to allocate the income required by the Board of Finance to fulfil its charitable objective to promote, assist and advance the work of The Church of England; primarily but not exclusively in the Diocese of Blackburn, by acting as the financial executive of the Blackburn Diocesan Synod. It funds 'Healthy Churches, Transforming Communities'.

Our requested share contribution is calculated by allocating a cost of ministry based on stipend, NI and pension and a share of other costs based on the average number of regular weekly attenders in the parish in the previous three years. The share is then adjusted so that the most deprived parishes have some support from those who have more resources. This is in line with the early Christians who demonstrated their love in the Book of Acts by selling property to give to those in need.

Sometimes a parish may find this allocation too high to meet on its own. There are Parish Support meetings available to discuss the issues and to allow suggestions for help to be made.

In the spirit of generosity, gift and grace some parishes may want to do more. Partnering with a deprived parish is one possibility or donating to the Parish Vision Fund, which provides grant funding to parishes undertaking Vision 2026 projects, is another.

HOW IS THE 2020 BUDGET FOR THE CHURCHES OF THE DIOCESE FUNDED?

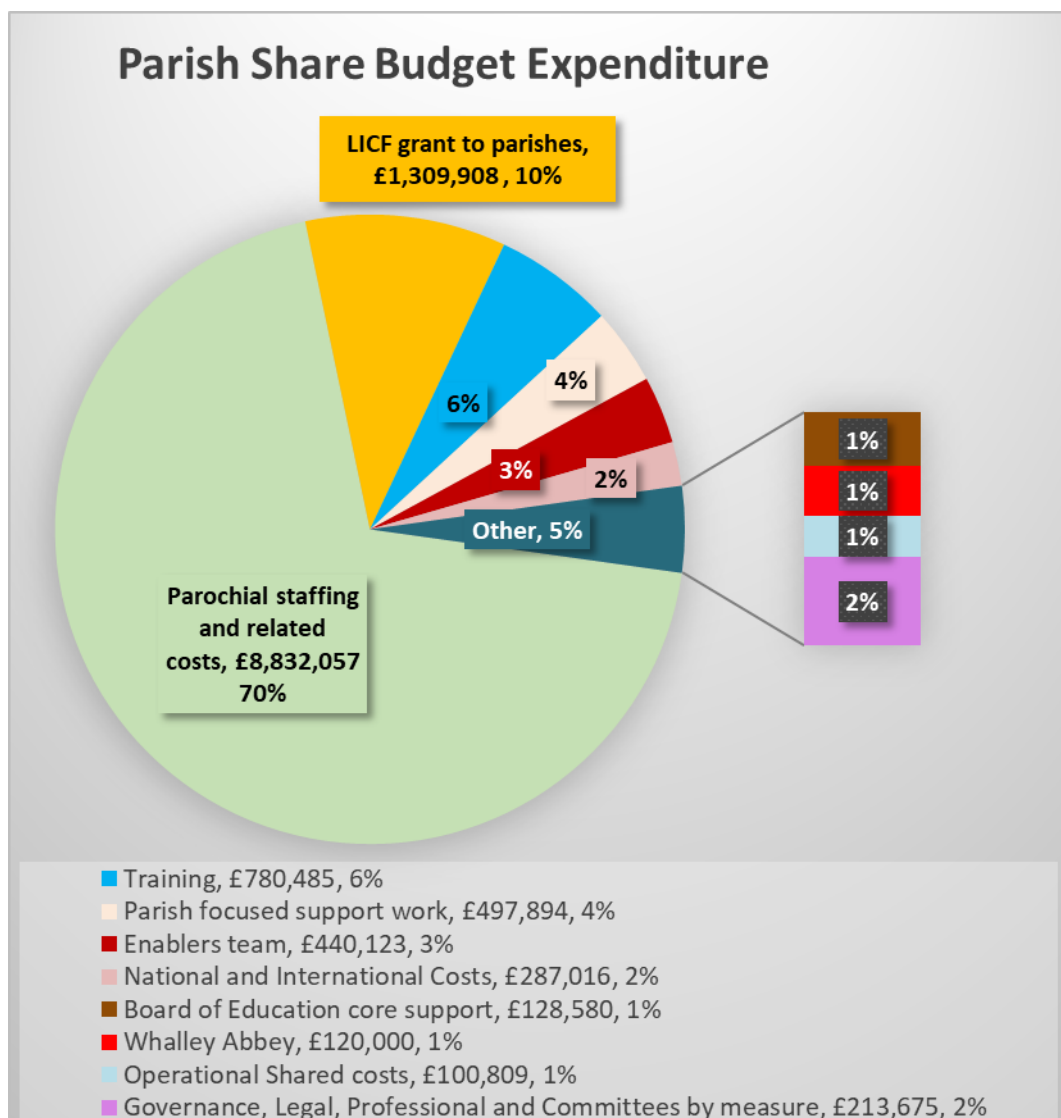


The main income of the Board of Finance is from parish contributions; this is called the Parish Share. This year our initial request will be for £9,920,000. Parishes can apply for support if their financial circumstances mean they are unable to fully meet their initial request. We have budgeted for an expected share of £9,123,000 (92% of the initial request). However, after support has been agreed, our aim is to receive 100% of share requested. This Budget assumes parishes will only fund £9.1m of expenditure leaving a deficit of over £930,000.

The Parish Share is allocated to each parish based on its stipendiary ministry and the remaining costs are allocated by each regular attender. This figure is adjusted by a factor to take account of relative deprivation. The most deprived parishes receive a reduction and contribute 90% of the allocated costs. The least deprived parishes support these parishes by contributing up to an additional 25% of their costs. This allocation is then reduced by the DBF Fees paid by the parish to the BDBF.

In addition to this income source, there is the LICF grant to the Board of Finance from the National Church of £1,310,000 as well as investment income, rents and DBF Fees.

WHAT IS THE BUDGET USED FOR?



For the budget every £1 received is used for ...

- Clergy stipends, housing and associated costs **(70p)**
- LICF grant **(10p)**
- Training **(6p)**
(clergy, ordinands, readers and other lay roles)
- Parish Focus support **(4p)**
(safeguarding, children, youth, and vision focused teams)
- Enablers **(3p)**
(Diocesan Secretary, support services, finance, HR (staff) and communications)
- Other **(7p)**
(Director of Education grant, national grant, linked diocese costs, governance, legal, office costs)

HOW HAS THE BUDGET BEEN SET?

The Bishop's Budget Team (BBT) meets to decide the financial priorities for the coming year.

The individual Vision Leaders then apply these priorities to set their area's budget.

The budget is sent to the Budget Scrutiny Committee, made up of a mixture of co-opted clergy and laity and ex-officio members including the Chair of the Board, the Chairs of the Houses of Clergy and Laity, with Archdeacons and the Bishop of Blackburn who feed their comments back to the BBT.

After final deliberations, the BBT present the budget to the Finance Committee for comment and then get final approval from the Directors, before recommending acceptance of the budget to Diocesan Synod.

WHAT ARE THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS DOING FOR THE CHURCH?

The Church Commissioners exist to support the work and mission of the Church of England today and for future generations, helping it to remain a Christian presence in every community.

They manage an £8.3bn investment fund in a responsible and ethical way, using the money they make from investments to contribute towards the cost of mission projects, dioceses in low-income areas, bishops, cathedrals, and pensions.

Whether funding city centre churches; community projects in low-income areas or research programmes to examine how the Church can grow, the returns on the Church Commissioners' investments make a tangible difference to the lives of thousands across the country.

Their funding is targeted towards mission opportunities and those areas which are most in need.

Having worked with the Archbishops' Council as part of the Renewal and Reform programme, their funding for mission has been divided into two streams – Strategic Development Funding (for major mission projects) and Lower Income Communities Funding (for dioceses serving lower-income areas).

WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

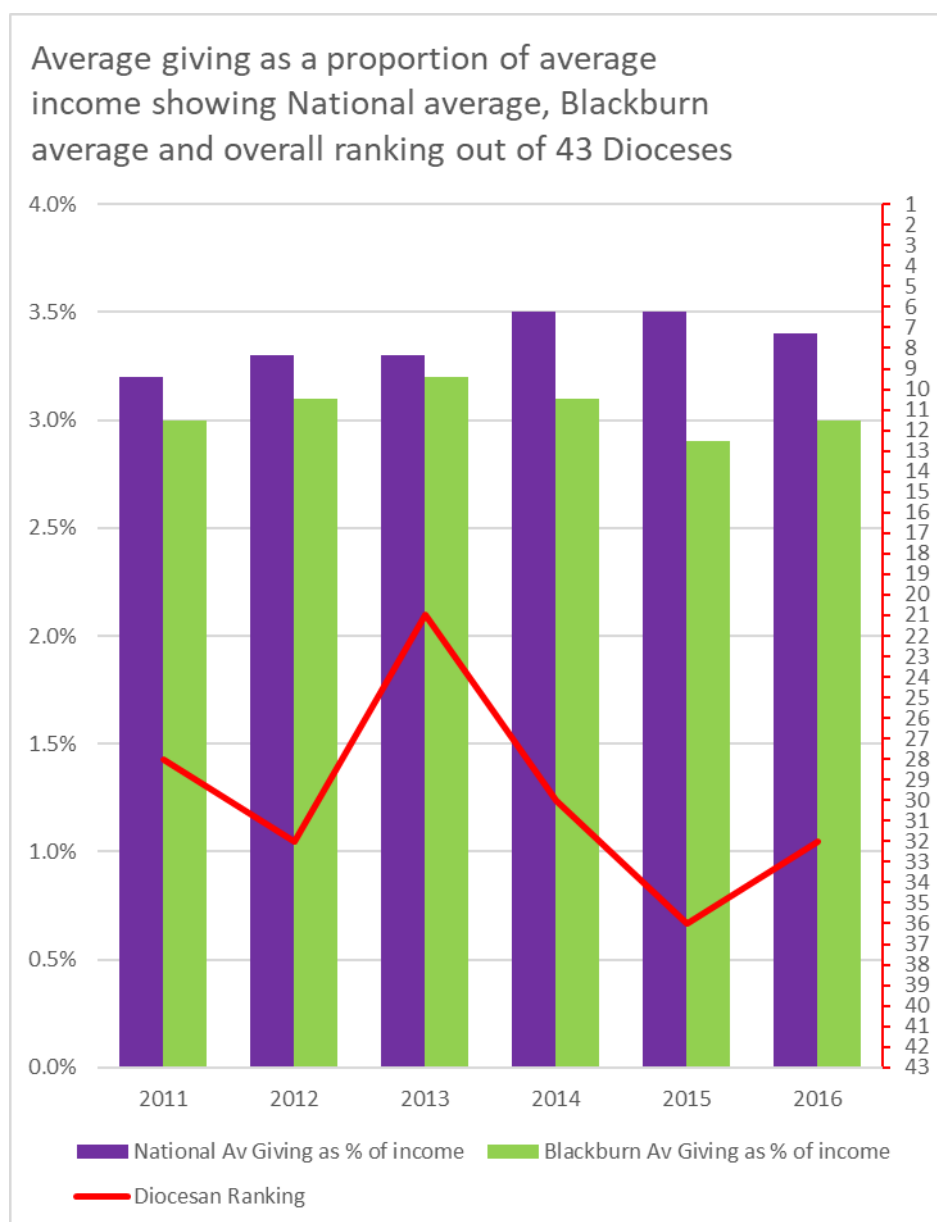
Our plans around maintaining stipendiary numbers, with the need to increase curate numbers and ordinands, have been forecast forward for the Parish Share budget for 2021 and 2022. In addition the expected reduction in investment income due to utilising reserves and other changes, including inflation, has been mapped in.

More importantly, the income budgeted to be contributed from Parish Share is forecast to be held at 3%. This will provide some stability for parishes looking forward while an investment in stimulating growth takes place. The investment from the Board of Finance reserves will be in the region of £3.2 million.

The Parish Share increase at 3% each year from 2020 to 2022, and the changes to LICF capped at 3% over the same period, may feel difficult for some parishes. However, a budget like this challenges our commitment to God's work in the diocese and our giving at individual and parish level.

This budget is driven by a confidence in a generous and loving God and is an exciting and ambitious drive to see Vision 2026 come to fruition.

HOW ARE WE DOING WITH OUR GIVING IN BLACKBURN DIOCESE?



Graph from data produced by the National Church for Dioceses

“Giving meets needs, changes lives, makes a difference. But the need is not the starting point for Christian giving or its centre of gravity. It is commonly said that our need to give is greater than the need to which we give but familiarity should not blind us to the truth of this observation. Giving is above all a gift, a grace of God whose nature is to give.”

‘The Grace of Giving’ report on [‘Stewardship’ website](#)

The aim is to improve the financial discipleship of the Diocese as a response to God’s gift to us. To help with this, the ‘Generosity, Gift and Grace’ course was developed recently (and is still available on the Diocesan website www.blackburn.anglican.org) and Clergy Study Days for 2019, led by the Bishops and Archdeacons, were on preaching about giving.

WHAT IF WE DON'T CONTRIBUTE OUR SHARE?

We have a support fund, funded by other parishes in the Diocese to help parishes who are financially struggling and people willing to help with stewardship, discipleship and vision planning.

So, there is no reason not to be able to contribute your Parish Share if you engage with us.

If you don't contribute there are consequences for everyone. It is harder to attract a priest in vacancy. It is embarrassing for the clergy to be paid when the benefice is not fully contributing. Ultimately, other parishioners will have to fund your ministry.

If you are concerned that you may not be able to fully contribute, please contact the Diocesan Offices at Clayton House to arrange a meeting.

SUPPORT TO HELP YOU SHARE MESSAGES ABOUT PARISH SHARE LOCALLY

Every effort will continue to be made to make all members of our congregations aware of the opportunities and challenges envisioned by this budget as part of a refreshed approach to our communications in relation to Parish Share.



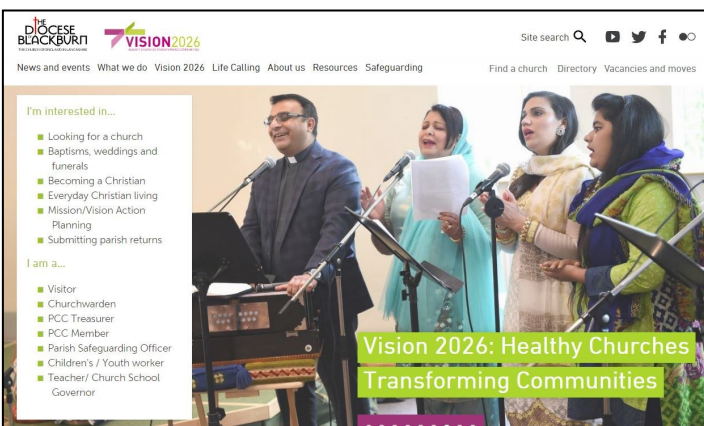
This document for all PCC members is part this refreshed approach. Please take the opportunity to discuss it with your

congregations and to help people who don't encounter Parish Share as often to understand how it helps parishes to fulfil their ministry.

Ultimately each parish should take local responsibility for passing on key messages around Parish Share.

To support parishes in doing this, we also have plans for additional communication and stewardship resources in the coming year.

We will be utilising all our main communication channels, from the new 'Parish Update' ebulletin to The See



The front page of the Diocesan website



The new Parish Update e-bulletin

Magazine and from the Diocesan website to videos on YouTube – including the 'Generosity, Gift and Grace' course mentioned above.

And as part of our working together on all of this, we also want YOUR ideas about how to effectively get the messages around Parish Share and generous giving across to 'people in the pews'.

You can email communicate@blackburn.anglican.org with your thoughts.

CLOSING WORDS FROM DAVID BARLOW (CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE)

This budget represents the increased investment required to implement the Leadership and Development Strategy and some help to mitigate the financial challenges facing many of our parishes today.

It does not come without risk or faith but, ultimately, do we believe that God in His grace will respond to this increase in investment?

In faith, we are committed to Vision 2026 and its implication for increased stipendiary numbers and lay and ordained training. We have chosen to help parishes with some assistance over the next three years, with a significant investment from the Diocesan Board of Finance reserves.

This budget proposal would not be possible without the excellent stewardship over past years by my predecessor John Dell, and fellow Board members. Thanks to them we now find ourselves in a position to invest significantly in parish ministry, training, development of leaders and ultimately in the future of our churches.

It is believed that many parishes will continue to respond positively to the initiatives started in 2018, including the teaching on giving in early 2019, following the publication of a Generosity, Gift and Grace paper.

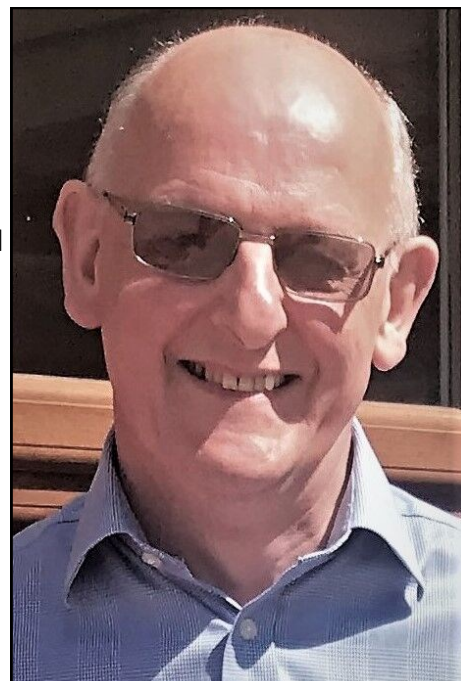
The recommended budget offers a real opportunity to use our resources in seeking to develop 'Healthy Churches Transforming Communities' when we appear to be experiencing, in Bishop Julian's words, 'a time of God's favour' in our Diocese.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parishes for the contributions they have made towards Parish Share during this and past years; we know it is never easy (as I know from experience as a serving Parish Treasurer)!

We are truly grateful for those who meet their Parish Share and for those who struggle to do so but have come and talked about a way forward.

Thank you on behalf of the Diocese for all the work you are doing to build God's Kingdom.

To Him be all the glory.



David Barlow