

Introducing Benefice Share



What is Benefice Share?

It's the name for the contributions all our churches are asked to make into our Common Fund, which pays for the work of the church across our Diocese of Bath and Wells to ensure we are a Christian presence in every community, living and telling the story of Jesus.

Why has the name changed?

The contributions requested for our Common Fund are being calculated differently. The new calculation reflects that stipendiary ministry is allocated by benefice not parish. Independent data and information already submitted by churches is now used in the calculation, which means it is a more transparent method which takes into account the local context, while still reflecting the Biblical principles of mutuality and generosity.



What will my parish be asked for?

The request will be sent to each benefice and include a suggested contribution for each parish. Each benefice can adjust the parish allocations based on local knowledge and circumstances, if they so wish.

This data includes Statistics for Mission, the attendance data returned by each parish every year.

Ordained ministry in Bath and Wells is made up of: curates, full-time and part-time stipendiary ministers, House for Duty ministers, self-supporting ministers, and PTOs, including retired.

Stipendiary ministers - those who receive a stipend, or payment for their work of ministry.

How is it calculated?

There are three elements to the Benefice Share requests:

- Part A: Cost of deploying stipendiary clergy in a benefice.
- Part B: A Proportion of diocesan-wide costs
- Part C: A mutuality and generosity contribution for those identified as needing particular additional support, including areas of multiple deprivation or significant rural sparsity.



When does it take effect?

Benefice Share requests are being sent out in autumn 2024, for payment in 2025.



Who do I speak to if I have any questions?

For Benefice Share payment queries contact:
benefice-share@bathwells.anglican.org
For Giving and Funding support contact: givingteam@bathwells.anglican.org