

# Our Diocese Shaped by Generous Hearts



## Overview of Diocesan Finances 2024



**Diocese of Canterbury**  
CHANGED LIVES ➞ CHANGING LIVES

## A word from Bishop Rose



Dear sisters and brothers, throughout the year, we've witnessed the generosity of God's love overflowing in the life of our diocese. I'm glad to have met many of you at our Deanery Roadshows and I remain deeply grateful to you for your faithful work and tireless dedication in serving your communities and bearing witness to the goodness of God. You are an inspiration!

In the past year, we have once again seen the abundance of ministry and mission at work across our parishes and deaneries. It was wonderful to preside over a special service led by women clergy to mark the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood — a deeply moving celebration of God's faithfulness. It was also a blessing to gather clergy from across the Diocese for a time of encouragement and renewal at Ashburnham Place.

I had the joy of leading Confirmation services at Canterbury Cathedral and many of our deaneries, each one a moving celebration of individuals committing themselves to Christ and a hopeful sign of the Church growing in faith and life. I was also heartened to celebrate with those completing the Launchpad course as they stepped into youth ministry with renewed confidence and passion.

Our commitment to social justice has continued to deepen with the launch of the Social Justice Network — an important step in supporting and resourcing those who serve the most vulnerable in our communities.

We have much to be thankful for. May this booklet be a reflection of God's love and generosity among us, and an encouragement to keep patterning God's generosity so that we may continue to grow and flourish together.

+ Rose

*The Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin*  
Bishop of Dover

## Financial review of 2024



I want to thank all our parishes for their support and hard work in 2024. Your commitment, especially in the payment of Parish Share, which reached £7.1M, is deeply appreciated. It is a vital expression of our shared mission, making up 57% of total consolidated income, and funding our ministry costs, office team, and critical areas such as safeguarding, grants to parishes and schools, children/young people, and our Social Justice Network. We operate in a challenging environment marked by geopolitical instability and economic hardship. Despite the generosity of our parishes and external grants, ever-increasing costs amounted to £11.8M. We had to rely on property sales, generating a profit of approximately £1M, to avoid an operating loss. This isn't sustainable, and your Finance Board has responded decisively. Our focus is now on building a financially sustainable future by 2030 in the following ways:

- 1. Cost Discipline** – Tight control over expenditure, rigorously challenging all costs to ensure every pound is wisely spent.
- 2. National Church Engagement** – Working closely with national Church, who are developing a multi-year financial package for all dioceses, aiming to relieve pressure on Parish Share from 2026 onwards.
- 3. Asset Stewardship** – Working to optimise the medium-term return on assets, particularly glebe land, to strengthen our financial base.
- 4. Strategic Funding Applications** – Seeking additional project financing from the Strategic Mission and Ministry Board to support our ministry and growth initiatives.

Together, with continued prayer, partnership, and stewardship, we believe we can build a financially resilient Church that serves the people of Kent for generations to come. Thank you for all that you do.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Richter'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'A' and a cursive 'Richter'.

*Anthony Richter*

Chair of the Canterbury Diocesan Board of Finance

# 3 Bold Outcomes for 2030

- Double the number of children and young disciples
- 200 new Christian communities
- Every parish, benefice and deanery showing signs of revitalisation

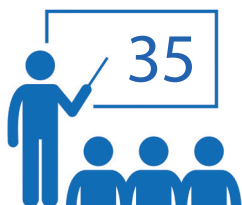
## 2024: our life in numbers



Over **26,210** children  
educated in 105 Church of  
England schools across our  
diocese



properties  
maintained



different  
training  
sessions for  
school leaders  
and governors



**34** Anna Chaplains  
and Anna Friends  
in total at the  
end of 2024



Over **£1.8m**

raised through  
the Parish Giving  
Scheme



pupils attended our  
Year 2 Leavers' Service



**900** year 6 children  
attended Cathedral  
Schools' Days



people who  
participated in  
Discipleship & Lay  
Ministry courses,  
workshops & events

# 2024: our life in numbers

14%  more children and young people attending our churches

 1057 DBS checks for volunteers and employed staff

 20 new deacons and 6 new priests ordained at Canterbury Cathedral

10   
church school leaders completed 'Rooted' training

80   
projects granted full faculty consent

3  synods and 13  roadshows

Facebook reach up   
313%

120   
Licensed Lay Ministers/Readers

Over  £40k

raised from national roll-out of contactless devices in our diocese

56 

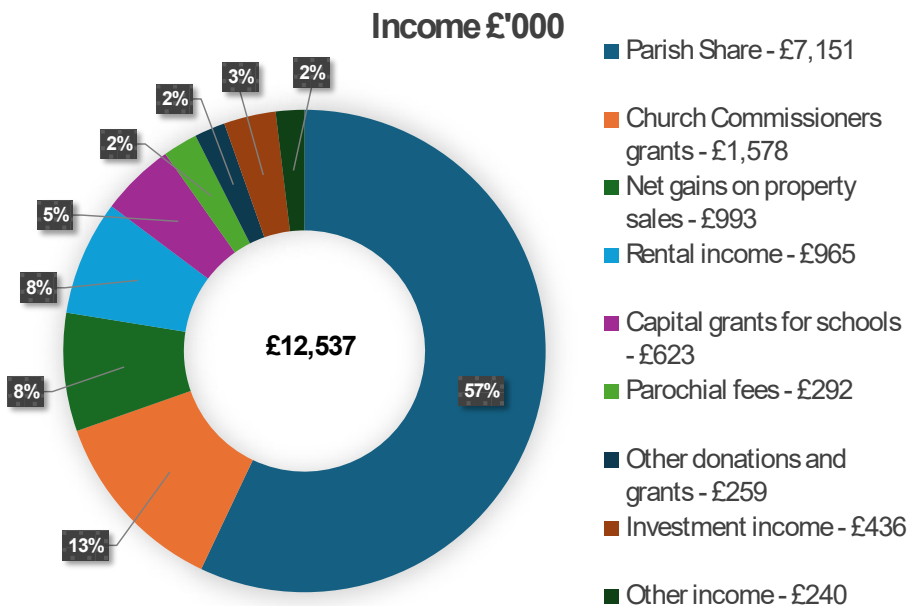
news stories published to the Diocesan website

# Finance 2024

## Our income & expenditure

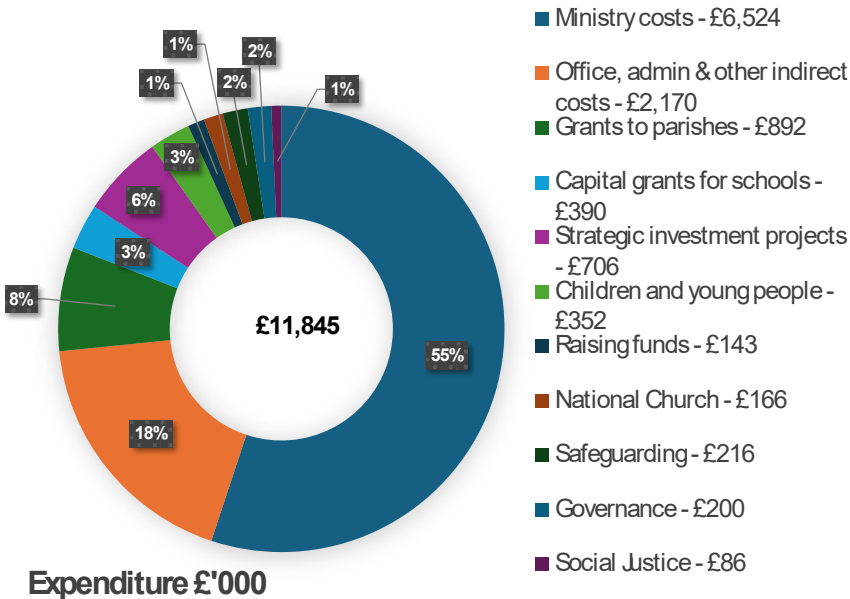
Parish Share remains our main source of diocesan income. All the monies received through Parish Share are spent directly on our clergy in our parishes. In 2024 Parish Share was £6.3M, excluding the £0.9M of Low-Income Communities funding. The clergy cost was £6.5M. In addition to Parish Share, our primary sources of income are national Church grants, rental income, dividends and interest on investments, and parochial fees. The figures provided include unrestricted, restricted and endowment amounts. We had an overall surplus of £0.7M in 2024, however, we made a £1.2M loss in terms of our unrestricted finances. Therefore, we had no choice but to balance the books by selling properties, using reserves, and continuing to review our operating costs.

### Total income

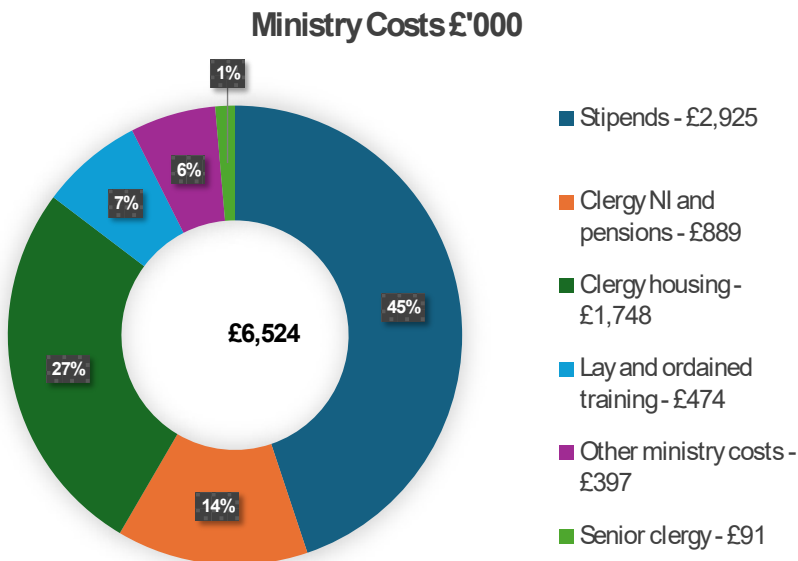


# Finance 2024

## Total expenditure



## Ministry costs



# Looking to the future: 2025 and beyond

The kingdom-building work of Canterbury Diocese – our commitment to social justice, our mission, evangelism and education – is only made possible thanks to the enormous generosity and commitment of our parishes. None of us take this lightly and our Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) is doing all it can to reduce future pressure on Parish Share.

In addition to maintaining a close control of costs, our DBF is working closely with Church Commissioners and other funding bodies for future grants, diversifying our own internal income streams (such as optimising returns on glebe property) and, through grants from the National Church Institutions, supporting parishes with their projects to develop ministry and mission.

Our Generous Giving Team supports churches, parishes and benefices as they seek to increase generosity and giving from among their congregations and wider communities. The team can be contacted for advice on all matters to do with fundraising, including giving campaigns, contactless and online giving, legacies, Gift Aid, the Parish Giving Scheme, fundraising materials and grant applications.

## Our commitment to our parishes



**Friendly and helpful advice** from our knowledgeable and supportive Finance and Giving team — call 01227 459401 or email [Finance@diocant.org](mailto:Finance@diocant.org) / [GenerousGiving@diocant.org](mailto:GenerousGiving@diocant.org)



**Transparency** — all our key financial reports are made available on our website. Can't find what you need? Call us on the number above and we'll be happy to help.



**Communication** — we promise to be in touch directly with important updates.

*Cover image: Growing Young Leaders celebration, St Faith's Maidstone, St Pancras Coldred, Catalyst Graduation.*