

# Funding our Common Mission

Guidance & Timetable  
for 2018



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*Generous giving to parish ministry will enable  
God's church to grow and flourish,  
now and in the future*

## **The Common Mission Fund**

Contributions to the Common Mission Fund are gifts; a gift from each individual parish to support and grow ministry and mission across all our parishes, enabling the love of Christ to be shared.

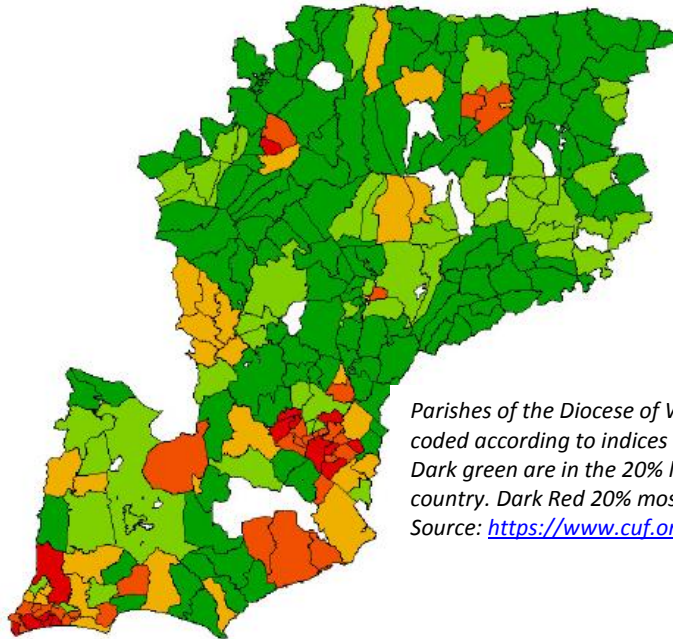
We are blessed to live in an affluent part of the country – the 6<sup>th</sup> most affluent Diocese in the Church of England. Within our diocesan community, however, there is huge variation of affluence and deprivation. We have some of the most affluent parishes in the entire country but also some of the least.

It is only by sharing our resources together that we can ensure ministry can be provided where it is needed, not just where it can be afforded.

The Common Mission Fund can be seen as the financial embodiment of our fourth Strategic Priority: *'We belong together in Christ...'*

It is about every parish seeing itself as part of the Diocesan Community; giving generously and sacrificially to the mission of the church both locally and further afield. Through your parish's contribution, wherever you live or worship, you help fund places where people contribute in amazing ways, but do not necessarily have the financial resources that others have.

In 2017 the total Common Mission Fund request is £9,703,000 and £9,694,000 will be invested in Mission Development - funding the costs associated with our clergy and other ministers; stipends pensions, national insurance, housing, training, and discerning vocations of future mission and ministry leaders.



*Parishes of the Diocese of Winchester colour coded according to indices of deprivation. Dark green are in the 20% least deprived in the country. Dark Red 20% most deprived. Source: <https://www.cuf.org.uk/>*

***Common Mission Fund is based upon Biblical teaching: the New Testament describes a church which is inter-dependent, mutually supportive and generous. Christians are called to give 'first to the Lord' of all that they have and to give of their best for the common good.***

***The Common Mission Fund asks all parishes to give according to their potential, so that all may receive according to their need.***

## ■ Data Confirmation Process of 2018 – Online system

2016 was the second full year of operation of the Common Mission Fund and produced another fantastic result; exceeding even the record performance in 2015. This was a real testimony to the wonderful examples of generosity and sacrifice from parishes and individuals giving across our diocesan community.

For 2018, we are looking to build on this positive foundation, whilst trying to streamline the process where we can. Many parishes have reflected on the administrative burden created by the number of forms associated with the Common Mission. Having reviewed this with the Deanery Finance Chairs' Forum, we have agreed to run the data confirmation process for 2018 online using a simple survey.

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CMF2018](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CMF2018)

The survey has only 8 questions to complete and these are as follows:

1. First select your **deanery**;
2. The select your **Parish**;
3. Enter the **name** of the person completing the response;
4. Enter a contact **email address**;
5. Do you wish to ask for your **Affluence Band** to be reviewed?

*If yes, please download and complete the Affluence Review Form and return it to your Deanery Finance Chairman by 15 May 2017:*

<http://www.winchester.anglican.org/resources/common-mission-fund>

6. What is your new **Worshipping Community** figure to be used for the 2018 process?

*Please be aware that if your new Worshipping Community figures is a significant reduction from previous years, your Deanery Team will wish to discuss this with you further.*

*Guidance for calculating your Worshipping Community figure can be found on the diocesan website: <http://www.winchester.anglican.org/resources/common-mission-fund>*

7. The Suffragan Bishops and the Head of Operations have been running a programme of parish visits for the last 18 months to discuss concerns and queries around the Common Mission fund. **Would you like to request such a visit during 2017?**
8. Do you have any **further comments** or queries that you would like to raise with your Deanery Team or the Diocesan Team at this stage?

***We ask all parishes to ensure the survey is completed no later than the  
15 May 2017***

## How are Common Mission Fund requests calculated?

The Common Mission Fund model looks to ensure all requests are reached in a consistent and objective manner. All calculations are based on the same two pieces of information for every Parish – the size of your ‘Worshipping Community’ and your relative ‘Affluence Band’.

***The Common Mission Fund is often characterised as a contract between each parish and the ‘Diocesan Office’. It is more accurate to see it as an agreement between each parish and every other parish; where the actions taken by one will impact on all.***

We ask all parishes to review and confirm that we have accurate data for this process.

### Calculating Your Worshipping Community

All parishes are asked to calculate the size of their Worshipping Community. To assist you in this task a **Worshipping Community Calculation Form** is provided on the diocesan website with detailed guidance notes.

***For the purposes of calculating your request, a member of your Worshipping community is any person, aged 18 or over, who attends your church regularly, or would do so if not prevented by illness, infirmity or temporary absence.***

### Larger Worshipping Communities

For parishes with larger Worshipping communities (over 200), a discount on their request is offered in recognition of the increased local costs associated with growing and supporting a larger congregation.

<b>Members</b>	<b>Discount</b>	<b>How many members are counted in the assessment?</b>
<i>Up to 200</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>We count everyone</i>
<i>201-300</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>We count everyone up to 200 and then 70% of the members over 200.</i>
<i>301-400</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>We take the total for 300 members which is 270, and then add 60% of the members over 300</i>
<i>401+</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>We take the total for 400 members which is 330, and then add 50% of the members over 400</i>

Applying the table above, a church with an actual membership of 300 would be asked to contribute for 270 members.

## Understanding your Relative Affluence

The Common Mission Fund model places every parish into one of seven affluence bands (as set out below). These bands are calculated by taking two external, objective sources of data – Parish Spotlights and Mosaic data from Experian. Despite the information coming from two distinct sources, in the vast majority of cases they give the same result for every parish.

<b>When compared with the wider population of England, the members of our Worshipping community is:</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
<b>BAND A:</b> Most unfavourably placed	<b>0.63</b>
<b>BAND B:</b> Unfavourably placed	<b>0.74</b>
<b>BAND C:</b> Evenly to unfavourably placed	<b>0.86</b>
<b>BAND D:</b> Evenly placed	<b>1.00</b>
<b>BAND E:</b> Favourably to evenly placed	<b>1.16</b>
<b>BAND F:</b> Favourably placed	<b>1.35</b>
<b>BAND G:</b> Most favourably placed	<b>1.58</b>

Due to the affluent nature of much of our diocese, the average affluent band for our parishes is a high E.

Those parishes in E, F and G bands are judged to be able to pay relatively more per head into the Common Mission Fund than those in bands A, B and C.

The weightings of each Band have been designed so that:

- > the amount of Common Mission Fund per head will increase by approximately 16% as you move up from one affluence Band to the next
- > those in the highest Band, G, will be asked to contribute two and a half times as much per head as those in the lowest Band, A ( $0.63 \times 2.5 = 1.58$ )

As the data we use looks at the whole population of each parish and not just the Worshipping Community, it is possible that the band assigned to your parish may be lower or higher than that of your Worshipping Community. Every parish therefore has the opportunity to request a review of their band.

*Further information on calculating relative affluence and how to request a change of band is set out in the document entitled **Understanding Relative Affluence** available from the Diocesan Website.*

## Calculating Requests

Once the Worshipping Community figures and Affluence Bands have been confirmed, the Diocesan Team will calculate requests for every parish.

This is done as follows:

1. The rolling average 'Worshipping Community' figure for each parish is multiplied by its Affluence Band weighting – giving a number of 'units'. The results for all parishes are then aggregated.
2. The Common Mission Fund target (total sum needed towards the 2018 budget) is divided by this aggregated number, giving a monetary value for each 'unit' = £U.
3. The request for a given parish is their number of units x £U.

The table below illustrates how this might look, in a scenario where £U equals £400. Please note that we will not know the unit value until all Parish Data has been collated. £400 is therefore only used as an **example** to illustrate the principle.

£U = £400		Relative Affluence								
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G		
		0.63	0.74	0.86	1	1.16	1.35	1.58		
Worshipping Community	50	£ 12,600	£ 14,800	£ 17,200	£ 20,000	£ 23,200	£ 27,000	£ 31,600		
	100	£ 25,200	£ 29,600	£ 34,400	£ 40,000	£ 46,400	£ 54,000	£ 63,200		
	150	£ 37,800	£ 44,400	£ 51,600	£ 60,000	£ 69,600	£ 81,000	£ 94,800		
	200	£ 50,400	£ 59,200	£ 68,800	£ 80,000	£ 92,800	£ 108,000	£ 126,400		
	250	£ 63,000	£ 74,000	£ 86,000	£ 100,000	£ 116,000	£ 135,000	£ 158,000		
	300	£ 75,600	£ 88,800	£ 103,200	£ 120,000	£ 139,200	£ 162,000	£ 189,600		
	350	£ 88,200	£ 103,600	£ 120,400	£ 140,000	£ 162,400	£ 189,000	£ 221,200		
	400	£ 100,800	£ 118,400	£ 137,600	£ 160,000	£ 185,600	£ 216,000	£ 252,800		

***“Collectively across the parishes of our diocese there is much to do as we seek to further Christ’s Kingdom. However, we remain confident that filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit we can together and in unity not only meet the financial challenges set before us but excel, grow and invest in His mission as followers of Jesus.”***  
***+Jonathan and + David***

## ■ What if we anticipate having difficulty meeting our Common Mission Fund Contributions?

There are a number of things that you could do if you anticipate having difficulty meeting your contributions to the Common Mission Fund.

### Meet with your Suffragan Bishop and the Head of Operations

Bishop Jonathan and Bishop David view the Common Mission Fund as fundamental to supporting the mission and ministry of the Diocese. As leaders of Mission in their archdeaconries, they are committed to supporting any parishes with financial challenges. If you have concerns, please contact the Diocesan Team to arrange a meeting.

Email: [colin.harbidge@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:colin.harbidge@winchester.anglican.org)

Telephone: 01962 737 305

### Resources available from the Diocesan Stewardship Advisor

A range of resources is available from the Revd Gordon Randall, Stewardship Advisor, who has many ways of presenting people with the need to review their giving. You can ask Gordon for help with preparing a programme to encourage increased giving which is both Christian and effective.

Email: [gordon.randall@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:gordon.randall@winchester.anglican.org)

Telephone: 01962 737 323

### Talk to your Deanery Finance Chair

It may be possible for other parishes within the deanery to offer financial support in the short term to ensure that the overall deanery contribution to the Common Mission Fund meets its target.

### Make an application for special consideration

Where a parish is facing substantial challenges in meeting its requested contribution, the PCC may apply for special consideration to receive a one-off reduction.

Applications for special consideration will be reviewed by a small panel including the Archdeacons.

A reduction of this nature represents an investment in that parish by the wider Diocesan Community. In considering applications, the Panel will seek assurances that the parish in question is doing all that it can to play its part in the Diocesan Community and is following best practice in regards to stewardship, governance and financial management.

*A form is available for any parish that wishes to apply for Special Consideration. Please note this must go to your **Deanery Officers** who will then pass it to the Diocesan Team.*



## ■ Transition arrangements

When the new model was introduced in 2015, it was with the full understanding that there would inevitably be substantial changes to existing contributions in a number of parishes - with some being asked for less and others for considerably more.

To this end it was agreed that a period of transition would be a vital element of the new model for the first 3 year, during which time any increases would be capped at 10%.

2017 is the final year for these transitional arrangements, so for 2018 we will be asking **all parishes to move up to their 'target' request.**

We are however very aware that for some parishes, the percentage increase in 2018 could be substantial. The Suffragan Bishops and Head of Operations will continue their programme of meeting with all of these parishes over the coming months, to consider options, agree a way forward and see what support may be required.

*We ask all parishes to prayerfully consider if they could give more than requested to assist.*

*We are sincerely grateful to all those parishes who generously gave more than their requested amount in 2016, to support others and invest in our share mission.*

## What is the role of the deanery?

The 13 deaneries in the Diocese of Winchester play a key role in helping parishes to meet their contributions. The deaneries will be involved at every step of the process. In particular:

### 1. Consultation and Feedback

Deanery Finance Chairs will meet with the Diocesan Team during the course of the year to review the Model and timetable, highlighting areas for improvement and concern.

### 2. Parish Data Confirmation

Deanery finance committees will review the Parish Data Confirmation from the parishes in their deaneries highlighting any queries or issues.

### 3. Communication

Deanery Officers will work as a conduit for communication, circulating request figures to parishes, and feeding back to the Diocesan Team any concerns or suggested changes.

### 4. Support and Special Consideration Applications

Once initial calculations have been made, the deaneries will work with any parishes which feel they may be unable to meet the contribution requested. If possible any 'shortfalls' will be met by asking other parishes within the deanery to contribute more than requested. If a parish needs to make an application for special consideration this must be supported by the deanery.

### 5. Monitoring Collection & Ongoing Support

Deanery Finance Chairs will monitor collection levels and keep the Diocesan Team updated. They will also help to ensure support and guidance can be focused where it is needed most.



## Timetable

PHASE ONE – DATA CONFIRMATION		
Date	Activity	Actions Required
31 March	Data confirmation process begins. <b>PCCs to receive link to online data collection survey and guidance notes.</b>	> All parishes to review figures and complete <b>Parish Data Confirmation Survey.</b>
15 May	Deadline for completion by all parishes.	> Diocesan Team to circulate responses to Deanery Teams for reviewing.
12 June	Deaneries to confirm final data with Diocesan Team and highlight any affluence reviews.	> Deaneries to send final Parish Data list (worshipping communities and affluence) to Diocesan Team > Deaneries to inform Diocesan Team of any remaining affluence reviews.
PHASE TWO – CALCULATION OF REQUESTS		
Date	Activity	Actions Required
26 June	Diocesan Team to circulate draft 2018 Common Mission Fund requests to deaneries and parishes.	> Deaneries to consider options for mutual support. > Parishes to be encouraged to apply for <b>Special Consideration</b> if needed. > Deanery Finance Chairs Forum to meet ( <i>tbc July</i> );
10 July	Parishes to submit <b>Special Consideration Applications</b> to Deanery Team	> Deanery to review and pass to Diocesan Team
7 August	Deadline for Deaneries to submit all <b>Special Consideration Applications</b> to Diocesan Team	> Deanery Finance Chairs to advise Diocesan Team of local mutual support arrangements; > Deanery Finance Chairs to submit all applications to Diocesan Team.
September	Diocesan Panel meets to consider all Special Consideration Applications	> Results of Applications to be communicated to Parishes and Deanery Officers
November	Deanery Finance Chairs review process to date	> DFCC Forum to meet (date tbc)

*“Please may I take this opportunity to record my personal gratitude for all you have done in modeling and encouraging a spirit of generosity and mutual support.”*

**+Tim Winton**