



A Guide to Parish Contributions

2027



Welcome to this guide to the Parish Contribution Process for 2027. Please take time to read and digest the information in this booklet. Additional resources are provided on our website.

Unlike previous years, we're inviting you to think about parish contribution in the context of your own local ministry; and ask that you prayerfully reflect on what level of increase is realistic, considering how this might shape and sustain ministry in your church community and the wider diocese for years to come.

The journey ahead is one that we are on together and I pray that through our ongoing generosity we will continue to see more lives transformed by the gospel.

Laura Taylor - Parish Giving Officer

Laura.Taylor@LeicesterCofE.org

07897003488

Contents

A Message from Bishop Martyn

A Story of Generosity

How are Parishes Supported?

How is the Diocese Funded?

Laura's Story

What Support is Available to You?

What Next?

A Message from Bishop Martyn



Brothers and sisters in Christ, I want to thank you for the generosity you have shown, both personally and as part of your local church. Your giving has enabled faith and mission to grow in meaningful ways.

Generosity lies at the very heart of what it means to be a disciple of Christ. It is our spiritual response to a God who is abundantly generous. Through our giving, we reflect God's heart to the world around us, helping to shape how others understand who God is. While we each approach generosity from different starting points, Jesus calls all of us to deepen our acts of giving, drawing us ever closer to God.

In recent years, we have highlighted the financial sustainability challenges we face in the Diocese. As you know, we are beginning to move towards a contribution system rooted in Minster Communities. This approach aims to support ministry in your local area over the next ten years and beyond.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we will provide resources to encourage and sustain you on this journey of generosity. These will include inspiring stories of generosity, as well as practical support to help guide conversations about Parish Contributions within your PCC or DCC.

This year, rather than asking for a set increase of 10%, we invite you to consider your contribution in the context of your local ministry. We ask that you prayerfully reflect on what level of increase is realistic in your area, and how this might help shape and sustain ministry in the years to come.

Together, we can move forward in hope, trusting that God is at work - changing hearts and minds, deepening our faith, and following Jesus wherever he leads.

+ Martyn

A Story of Generosity from Bishop Saju

Someone sent me a post from a local Facebook group in Rothley. A parent had taken a four-year-old to the village park. There the child met another boy—apparently called Abraham. They ran, chased, hid, kicked a football, climbed frames, and invented games.

She writes: “He was so kind... the kindest kid... my son had a fantastic time playing with him. I hope his parents see this—he’s a real credit to you.”

I read it twice. Then again.
Because Abraham is my son.

And what moved me wasn’t pride.
It was what she saw.
Not talent. Not boldness. Not strength... *Kindness.*

In a world ruled by scores and outcomes, a stranger paused long enough to notice a quiet act: one child making room for another.



It struck me: generosity does not begin with money. It begins with noticing.

Noticing a child on the edge of a playground. Noticing someone waiting for a companion. Noticing not what people lack, but what they seek.

Generosity is not a diocesan plan. It is our way of being. It flows from the grace that first found us. A child who opens a game.

A parent who lifts that moment into the light. A village that chooses to celebrate what is good.

As a bishop, I do not stand above generosity. I am carried by it—prayers from strangers, meals left on tables, volunteers who keep showing up, and now this: two children running freely in a park.

Whether it’s £5 or five minutes, a meal or a moment, generosity steadies someone’s steps. I know this because someone once steadied my son, and through Abraham, God blesses me every day!

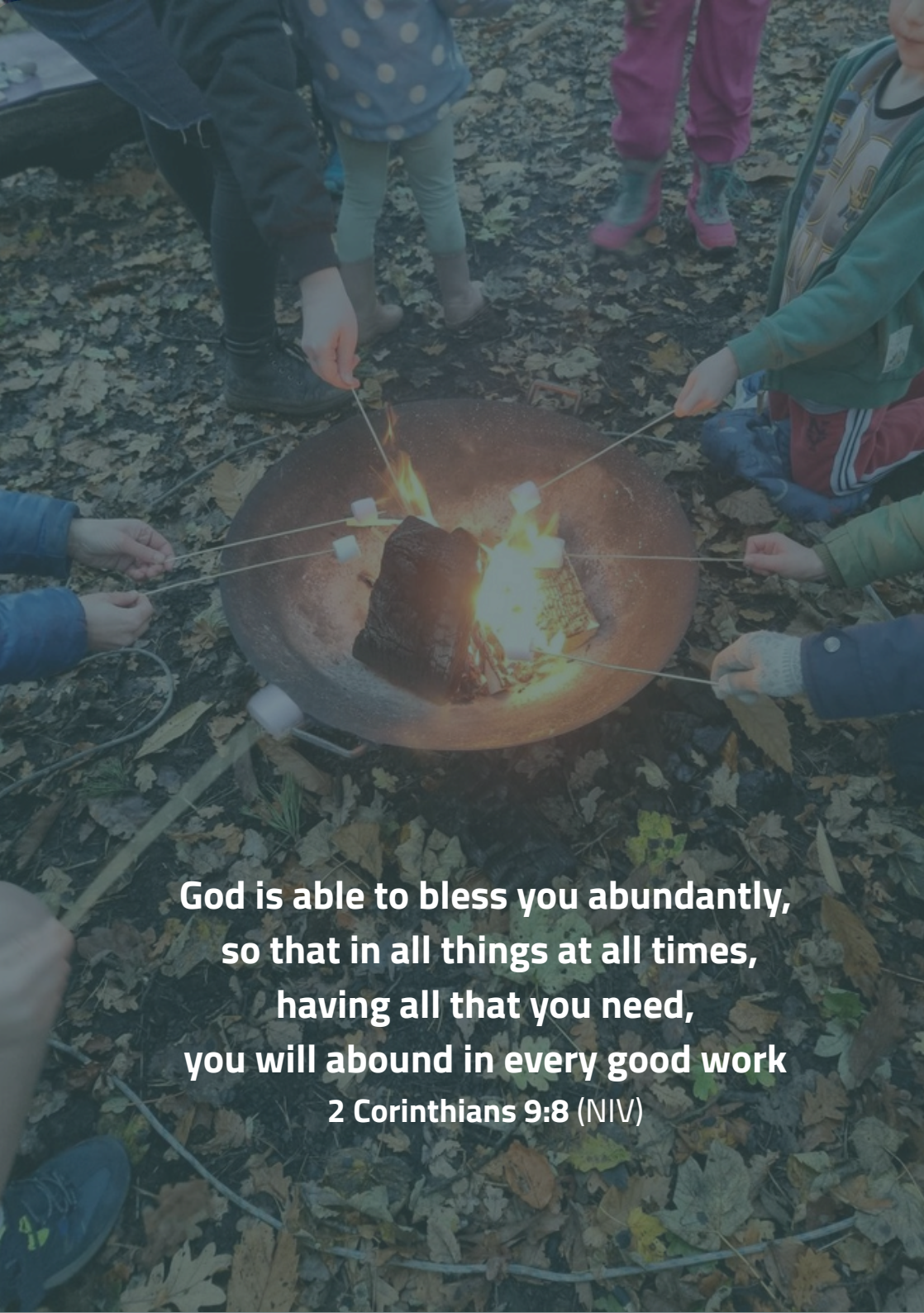
+ Saju



New Spotted Rothley

• 7 m •

If your son has just returned home from Rothley Library park you should be so proud of your son. My 4 year old son was on the park at the same time as him and his mates and he was so kind ! He was playing tag, hide and seek , football and on the play equipment with him . I think the boys name was Abraham but I could be wrong but he was the kindest kid and my son had a fantastic time playing with him. I hope his parents see this posted as honestly he's kind and a real credit to you as parents 💙

A group of children are gathered around a large, round, metal fire pit. Inside the pit, a fire is burning brightly, with a large log and some marshmallows being roasted. The children are holding sticks with marshmallows over the fire. The ground is covered with dry leaves and twigs. The scene is outdoors, likely in a park or a wooded area.

**God is able to bless you abundantly,
so that in all things at all times,
having all that you need,
you will abound in every good work
2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)**

How are Parishes Supported?

Local parishes and their communities are at the missional heart of the Diocese of Leicester. The central team at St Martins House exists to equip, support and enable parishes through the provision of guidance, resources and expertise to support parishes to grow disciples that are shaped in the image of God.

DIRECT MINISTRY

Incumbents or Focal Ministers are appointed to parishes, benefices or Minister Communities to lead mission and ministry. The remuneration of clergy includes the cost of stipend, housing, pension and national insurance. Focal Ministers may have many roles, including oversight of a local area, growing people in faith, enabling mission, and leading day-to-day operations in churches.

MINISTRY SUPPORT

Across the diocese, we work together to support local churches in being shaped by God and reaching their local communities with the hope of Jesus. To do this, we rely on the skills and expertise of colleagues in safeguarding, HR, clergy wellbeing, the church buildings team, the finance team, archdeacons and their team, deanery administrators and area deans, and support for parishes in vacancy.

DEVELOPING MINISTRY

We are focused in growing present and future generations of ministry leaders. We invest in the discernment of lay and ordained vocations, training and development, clergy stipends and housing, pension and national insurance.

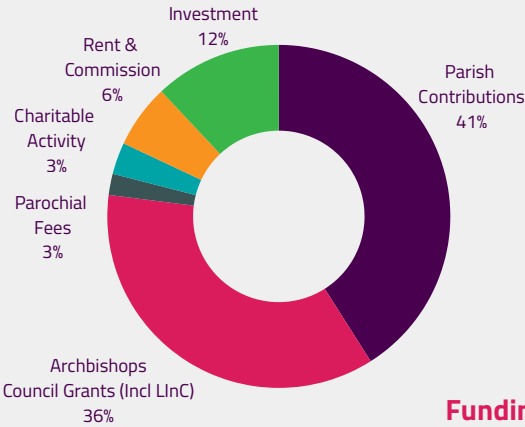
GOVERNANCE

As a charitable organisation, we need to comply with statutory requirements. We support local Parish Church Councils to fulfil their statutory obligations through the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), Registry, Finance and Church Building Teams. We are also required to contribute to the cost of the National Church support functions.

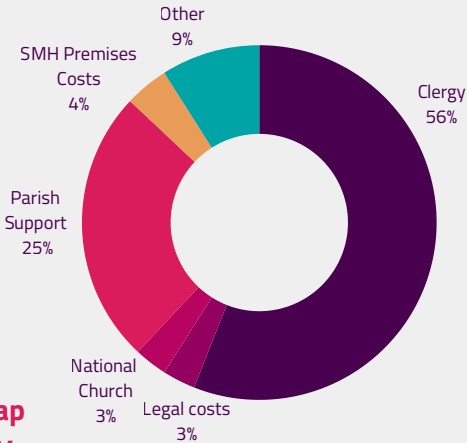
How is the Diocese Funded?

The diocese is funded through a variety of sources. Below you can see a breakdown of the income and expenditure. Further details can be seen in the FAQs.

Income
£9,448,085



Expenditure
£10,603,649



Funding Gap
£1,155,564

Figures calculated from 2026 budget

Stipendiary Ministry: Cost Breakdown

The total allocation of costs for each full-time equivalent stipendiary clergy in 2027:

Stipend Costs 		Housing Cost 		Other Costs 	
Stipend	£36,425	Allowance	£880	Vacancy Fees	£600
NI	£4,853	Rent	£1,180	Empty Houses	£307
Pension	£7,947	Repairs & maintenance	£9,845	Appointment costs	£200
		Council Tax & Water	£5,252	Moving grants	£444
		Insurance	£715	Other	£36
Sub total:	£49,225	Sub total:	£ 17,872	Sub total:	£ 1,586

Total cost - £68,684

Laura's Story



Growing up as a Christian, generosity was just something we did.

I grew up in a church where tithing 10% of your income was the norm, so when I started my first job at 16 – that's what I did. It wasn't a generosity that changed my heart, or a generosity that showed God to others, but just something to tick off my spiritual checklist.

I first experienced true and radical generosity at my wedding. My husband and I were students, so finances were limited. We wanted a wedding and reception that the whole church could attend, but this was looking to be a difficult task. But the church gave out in abundant generosity. They allowed not only to use the church for free, but the choir, organist and bellringers also offered to support the wedding without cost. If that wasn't enough, the vicar allowed us to have our reception in his garden, and the congregation supplied all the food, which not only fed the 150 guests, but also my husband and I for 2 weeks afterwards.

This act of radical generosity started me on a journey of questioning why people were so radically generous – and my only answer was that this outpouring from the heart of God.

The congregation's generosity showed me the very heart of God – a God who is abundantly generous.

I hope to live by that generous example every day. So much of my journey in faith would not have happened if it weren't for this (and other) acts of generosity from the community of God around me.

An act of generosity can change someone's life. I am so grateful to those who were, and continue to faithfully give in my church and the way it supported me in my journey of faith. I may not always have a lot to give, but if I am giving out of my time and money, then I know I am contributing to the Kingdom of God and to other people's journeys of faith.

Laura Taylor - Parish Giving Officer



**Everything comes from you,
and we have given you only
what comes from your hand.**

1 Chronicles 29 v 14 (NIV)

What Support is Available?

Support is available to parishes through our Parish Giving Officer, Laura Taylor.

She can offer support with the following:

- Parish Contributions
- Creating a generous culture
- Supporting Treasurers and PCCs
- Income generation
- Preaching and teaching about generosity
- Digital giving
- Legacies
- Training around finances and generosity

Contact Laura Taylor:

Laura.Taylor@LeicesterCofE.org

07897003488

For FAQs and other resources scan or click the QR code.



The journey ahead is one that we are all on together, and every step we take is a shared one. Your participation, reflections, prayers and feedback are essential as we move forward.

Based on feedback received from parishes, we have compiled a collection of FAQs that you can find on our website or by scanning the QR code below.

Questions include:

- Why should Parish Contributions be paid when we are in a vacancy?
- What support is there for churches in deprived areas?
- What role do Parish Contributions play in the formation of Minster Communities?
- How many support staff are employed in St Martins House and how are they funded?

These sit alongside a set of documents and resources that support you and your parish. We encourage you to explore the website.

If you have any questions, please email Parish.Contribution@LeicesterCofE.org.

What Next?

SHARE THE INFORMATION WITH YOUR PCC

It is important that all members of the PCC read the information provided. Please pass this information on to your PCC. If you would like hard copies to distribute, please email Parish.Contribution@LeicesterCofE.org

DISCUSS YOUR OFFER AT A PCC MEETING

At your next PCC meeting, please prayerfully consider what you would be able to offer to contribute in 2027.

COMPLETE AND SEND THE OFFER FORM

When you have decided as a PCC what you can offer, please complete the offer form. You can email this to Parish.Contribution@LeicesterCofE.org or post it to us using the address at the bottom of the form.

The deadline for sending the form is **Monday 5 October 2026**.

If you are unable to send the form by that date, please let us know.

A Prayer for the Journey Ahead

Generous God,
who created us, blessed us with all we have,
and called us to share our blessings with others;
inspire us in our discussions about generosity,
help us to lay down our earthly treasures,
and respond to your call with open hearts,
that through our generosity
others may come to know you,
be shaped by you,
and experience your abundant generosity in their lives.

Amen



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