

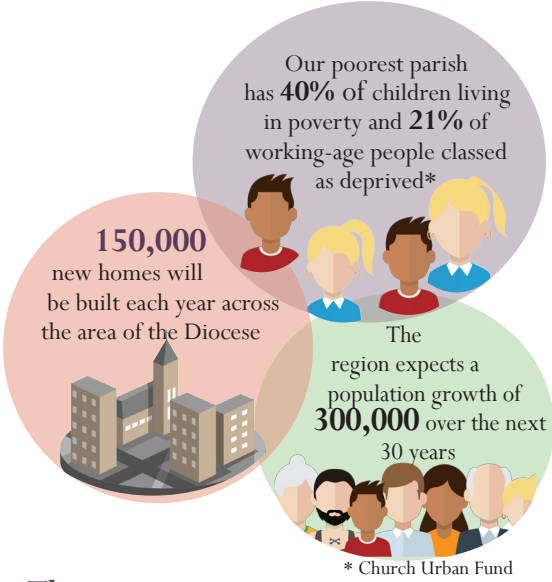


One mission, many places

consultation on Indicative Offers

The Diocese of Rochester is a wonderfully diverse and vibrant community of faith, with each of our 213 parishes and the people they serve, facing different challenges and needs.

Our shared Called Together vision has expressed our ambition to meet these challenges and as a Diocese, to grow disciples, enrich communities and resource our mission and ministry.



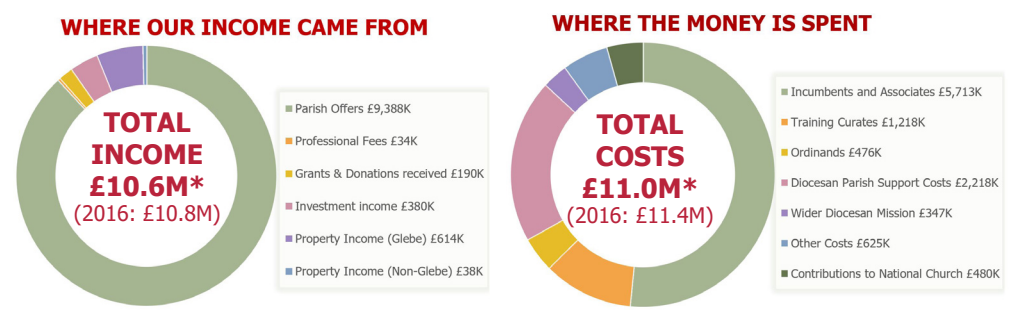
What are we consulting on?

To support this, we are looking at developing and enhancing the system of Parish Pledges to incorporate Indicative Offers for each parish.

This potential change has also been driven by parishes requesting guidance on an appropriate amount for their Parish Pledge, and the real financial challenge we face.

The current system

At the moment, each parish makes a voluntary but vital Pledge Offer to support the work of the Diocese each year. While parishes are given guidance on overall costs, the amount pledged is largely based on principles of relationship, trust, mutual commitment and freewill offering. These pledges represent 86% of our total income.



* Figures for 2017

How Indicative Offers would work

Whilst retaining the voluntary nature of Parish Pledged Offers, the Indicative Offers system would use a formula to calculate a fair and reasonable amount which they could afford.

It would allow parishes to view their suggested offer within the context of the overall funding requirements of the whole Diocese for mission and ministry.

How the offer would be calculated

The formula for calculating Indicative Offers would be based on the cost of three elements:



It might mean that for some, their contribution would go up.

We understand that this might be a challenge. It may require renewed energy around financial stewardship, but the Diocesan Support Team is ready to assist parishes and provide resources to help with such initiatives.

Why change is needed

While current arrangements are broadly working it's not perfect. Parishes in some of our most deprived areas, for example, are significantly under-resourced.

Something needs to change.

We need a system that better pools together the resources, gifts and talents we already have among us, to ensure that support for our shared mission and ministry is as effective as it can be.

Why we think this change is the right way forward

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians we read how important it is that we recognise that we are all part of one body and dependent upon each other.

We all have a part to play.

The system being proposed expresses this Christian ideal and would help us:

- ✓ Reaffirm our common identity and purpose;
- ✓ Achieve greater fairness, openness and transparency;
- ✓ Ensure consistency and certainty for long-term planning.

How has the proposal been developed?

This proposal has been developed in partnership with clergy and treasurers from a range of parishes across the Diocese, from different traditions and social and economic areas.

We have researched other options and dioceses who have similarly reviewed their systems, and who now provide parishes with a suggested offer, have seen real benefits.

How to get involved:

We believe the Indicative Offer system best supports the concept of a Common Fund into which every parish contributes fairly, but we are keen to hear your views.

You can read our full and detailed proposal online at:
www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/consultation/

Copies have been sent to Church Wardens, PCC Treasurers and PCC Secretaries, together with a calculation of what an Indicative Offer would look like for their parish.

Other material:

You might also find it helpful read some of the following:

Annual Review 2017: A snapshot of life in the Diocese over the last year:
www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/annual-review-and-accounts/

Stewardship resources: Living a generous life is part and parcel of our Christian discipleship. You can find lots of material here about stewardship in the Church: www.rochester.anglican.org/resources/stewardship/

Share your thoughts

You can contribute your views via our online questionnaire at:
www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/indicativeoffers or you can email your thoughts to: **consultation@rochester.anglican.org**

If you would like to contribute by post, please write to:

One mission, many places consultation
Diocese of Rochester,
St Nicholas Church,
Boley Hill,
Rochester, ME1 1SL

The consultation will close on **2 November 2018**.

What will happen next?

A final decision on Indicative Offers to be made in March 2019.

This is an important change and we value your help as we consider the way forward. Thank you.



Published by Communications Team
for the Diocese of Rochester 2018