



# Investing in the Church's growth

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS  
**Annual Review 2013**



The Church Commissioners for England

# The Church Commissioners play a vital role in supporting the Church of England as a Christian presence in every community.

We manage a portfolio of £6.1 billion, largely in property and shares from the Church's historic resources.

Our three-year spending plans, which we develop jointly with the Archbishops' Council, support the Church's strategic goals:

- advancing the Church's spiritual and numerical growth;
- restructuring ministry for the 21st century to help ensure that there is a growing and sustainable Christian witness in every community;
- contributing towards the common good.

A joint Task Group of the Archbishops' Council and Church Commissioners has been working to develop spending plans for 2014-2016 and outline plans for 2017-2019.

## **2014-2016 funding**

There will be a continuing focus on helping bishops, dioceses and cathedrals achieve more intentional investment in mission and growth with funding for each of the broad expenditure categories for their ministry increasing by 1% per annum. Also, dioceses can apply for grants from the £15m development funding earmarked to support projects designed to make a significant difference to mission and growth.

In 2013 the Task Group introduced regular review meetings with diocesan leadership teams to discuss their diocese's mission and financial strength and their current and future use of national funding. These discussions are making an invaluable contribution to the Task Group's work. They have also revealed concerns that the complexity of church legislation makes reorganising mission and ministry very resource intensive. We and the Archbishops' Council have set up a joint Simplification Group to look at the issues.

The way in which the monies from the funds that we manage are distributed is being examined as part of a wider review assessing whether any changes should be made to the distribution of the Church's resources to enable the Church to advance its mission and growth more effectively.



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**I pray that as the Commissioners continue to support the ministry and mission of the Church to the nation by providing financial support, we will see continued growth and new areas of opportunity.**

**JUSTIN WELBY**  
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

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## Research and development funding

In 2011-2013 we and the Archbishops' Council earmarked £12m for research and development to help the Church understand better which parts of the Church are growing and why, and to seek to develop that growth. £4m of this funding had been allocated by the end of 2013:

- £0.7m for research into Church growth (of which £0.3m remains unspent);
- £3m for developing Church growth in deprived areas;
- £0.3m to help dioceses and cathedrals plan for, and analyse the effectiveness of, their use of the national funding they received in 2011-2013.

## The Church Growth Research Programme

2013 saw the completion of the 18-month Church Growth Research Programme. The Programme comprised three strands:

- Data analysis on the factors associated with Church growth.
- Church growth profiling using a survey of churches from a wide range of contexts and traditions to which there were 1,700 respondents.
- Structures: Cathedrals, Fresh Expressions and Church Planting, and Amalgamations, Team Ministry and United/Group Benefices.

The key findings from the research strands were announced at a Faith in Research conference in January 2014 and are being widely disseminated throughout the Church. [www.churchgrowthresearch.org.uk/progress\\_findings\\_reports](http://www.churchgrowthresearch.org.uk/progress_findings_reports)

## Jesus Shaped People, Bradford

Jesus Shaped People helps churches to rethink Christian discipleship. It identifies five priorities in the ministry of Jesus: people focused ministry – with special priority for those 'on the edge'; story based teaching; team building; prayer commitment; and challenging evil and injustice. Churches are invited to analyse these priorities carefully as a basis for their own spiritual vision and development strategy. Jesus Shaped People emerged in the highly disadvantaged social housing estate of Holme Wood in Bradford.

The development funding is being used to support the replication of Jesus Shaped People into five parishes with similar challenges in Bradford, now part of the new Diocese of Leeds.



## Liverpool Cathedral Mission Project



Liverpool Cathedral is committed to offering a variety of styles of worship that are accessible for a wide range of people.

Zone 2 is an all-age, café style, informal worship service that meets every Sunday at the same time as the traditional Choral Eucharist. The development funding is supporting the use of the cathedral as a resource to support the replication of this type of initiative into deprived parishes and producing a website containing practical advice on developing all-age, café style worship and resources for services ([www.oldoakresources.com](http://www.oldoakresources.com)).

## Developing Church growth in deprived areas

28 projects are in receipt of a grant of around £0.1m each from the funding for developing Church growth in deprived areas. Each had already proved to be effective in terms of mission and growth in deprived areas and the funding was awarded to enable their impact to be scaled up. [www.churchgrowthrd.org.uk/development\\_funding](http://www.churchgrowthrd.org.uk/development_funding)

The remaining £150,000 of this funding programme has been reserved for evaluating the programme and disseminating the results.



### **The Tolladine Mission, Worcester Diocese**

The Tolladine Mission, based in an area with pockets of exceptional multiple deprivation, offers new expressions of faith and engages in social issues, with

a focus on young people. The missionaries live in the area, bound together by a common purpose and sharing a simple rule of life involving prayer, sharing and generous hospitality. The work of the Tolladine Mission includes a garden project for young people with learning and/or behavioural difficulties; regular study opportunities to explore the Christian faith; chaplaincy in the local community centre; involvement in all the schools in the area through Governorships, teaching and weekly 'Open the Book' teaching/worship; and regular worship events. The development funding is supporting the employment of a full-time mission leader to enable the project to be scaled up.

## **New housing and other development areas funding**

In 2008-2010, £7.25m was allocated to 15 dioceses with significant mission challenges and opportunities in new housing and other development areas. £1.2m was spent in 2013 and there remains £2.8m committed which will be drawn down over several years. In 2013, we commissioned an external evaluation of the use of the funding to date. The evaluators will report in 2014.

### **Resourcing Mission Bulletin**

This is published on the Church Growth Research & Development website [www.churchgrowthrd.org.uk/resourcing\\_mission\\_bulletin](http://www.churchgrowthrd.org.uk/resourcing_mission_bulletin). All are welcome to sign up to receive the Bulletin by email.



### **Pioneer Ministry at Iwade, Canterbury Diocese**

New housing and other development areas funding is supporting pioneer ministry in Iwade in North Sittingbourne. In January 2013 a church was planted into the existing parish church with the intention of reaching those living in the local new housing areas. Average attendance is 20 adults and five children and there is a network of approximately 50 people who may attend a service. A cell group has been established with nine adult members and there is a group for children aged 5-10 – Kingsquad – which meets weekly and currently attracts 20 'Squaddies'.





## Pioneer Minister to new communities in Leeds

The funding for mission in new housing and other development areas has supported the post of Pioneer Minister to new communities in Leeds. The Revd James Barnett (pictured above) has developed a new expression of church – Riverside Church – which meets every Sunday for worship and is attended by 45 adults and 25 children,

of whom 65% were not regularly worshipping anywhere previously. Riverside Church also runs holiday clubs and a community café and offers mid-week prayer. It includes eight missional communities which gather together all over the city of Leeds and whose members are committed to living the values of faith, hope and love together.

## Strategic development funding

We and the Archbishops' Council have earmarked £15m of development funding in 2014-2016 to help dioceses invest in areas of strong mission potential, capable of making a significant difference to their long-term mission and financial strength.

The funding will be distributed in two tranches of £7.5m. Applications for the first tranche of funding – which will be distributed in 2014 – were invited in Autumn 2013 and were restricted to the least well-resourced dioceses. Applications for the second tranche will be invited in 2014 and the funds will be distributed in 2015.

## Parish ministry and mission

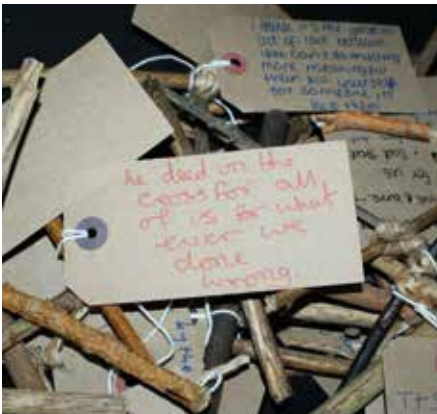
In 2013, £40.9m was distributed from our funds for parish ministry and mission. The Archbishops' Council distributed £34.4m in block grants to dioceses using a formula which targets the funding on the least resourced. Dioceses usually use their grant to support clergy stipends, targeting it on parishes least able to meet the ministry costs. 16 dioceses

received grants of more than £1m in 2013.

A further £5.9m was distributed by the Archbishops' Council to all dioceses as mission development funding, using a formula weighted towards areas of need. Most dioceses invest this funding in new opportunities for mission although it may also be used for stipend support.

## Christ Church Clifton, Bristol Diocese

Mission development funding is supporting a school community worker, Jane Gillis, at Christ Church Clifton to work with local schools to provide spiritual development opportunities. The ministry includes RE lessons, spiritual development lunchtime clubs, assemblies, Christmas and Easter Experience workshops, Christian perspective workshops in schools, hosting church visits, pastoral support, helping to support disadvantaged children from a local school and working in partnership with others across the city to envision and equip other churches to support their local schools. The vision is to see every school in the city supported, served and blessed by their local church.



**“...there is no greater joy than helping a young person to explore more about God and the big questions of this universe, as they journey through this life.”**

## Mission development funding

This funding is supporting a pioneer minister to work in outer Middlesbrough. Based at St Cuthbert's Church in Marton-in-Cleveland, the Revd Ben Norton also has an Archdeaconry brief for pioneering among young people. Ben is building on earlier work on a major estate with no physical Church presence and is also supporting neighbouring parishes to develop their capacity.

Ben says: "During the past 18 months I have been listening to what God is already doing in our local community... One of the ways I have been doing this is to volunteer one day a week in a local hairdressers' and barber's shop. Having trained as a stylist before being ordained I knew it was a great place to listen and learn about a community.

Through this I have met a few people who want to begin to explore what faith could mean to them. It is still early days but the green shoots of a new Christian community are beginning to show."



## St Mary's Church, Bramall Lane, Sheffield Diocese

Mission development funding is supporting a young people and families worker at St Mary's Church, Bramall Lane. Claire Wood has established a monthly Messy Church, built up the church's youth group and strengthened the church's links with the local school. She has also provided hospitality and opportunities for learning and fellowship

amongst students who attend church, recently introducing a scheme in which church families "adopt" a student. The Revd Karen Cribb, non-stipendary minister at St Mary's, says: "The overall impact of establishing this paid role within St Mary's is...a major factor in the growth in the regular church congregation over the last 14 months."





## Grants to cathedrals

We meet the cost of the stipends of the Dean and two residentiary canons at (almost) all cathedrals. In 2013 this support totalled £5.6m. We also give grants targeted on those cathedrals which are most in need. Cathedrals usually use the grants to support the cost of lay staff posts. In 2013 the grants totalled £3.5m.



**A total of £0.5m of development funding has been earmarked for cathedrals in 2014-2016 aimed at helping to advance their financial sustainability.**

Wakefield Cathedral's Heritage, Arts, Learning and Outreach Department (HALO) is partnered with a range of statutory, voluntary and arts organisations ensuring that it is an integral part of the life of the community of Wakefield. The cathedral hosts regular workshops – all with music, drama and/or artwork at the core (see above).

## Support for bishops

We meet the costs of the stipends and the office and working costs of the archbishops and bishops. We also house diocesan bishops.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, is pictured (below) with children from four York primary schools who in 2013 completed the Young Leaders Award (Key Stage 2) run by his Youth Trust.





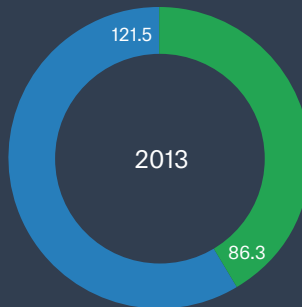
The Church Commissioners contribute 15p in the pound to the cost of the Church of England's mission - most of the balance comes from the generous giving of today's parishioners.

Ely Cathedral's popular annual pet service is supported by individuals and groups from across the local community accompanied by animals of all shapes and sizes. Other cathedrals work closely with local wildlife trusts as the tops of the buildings can be havens for nesting birds. Chichester Cathedral featured on BBC *Springwatch* last year with its nesting peregrine falcons.

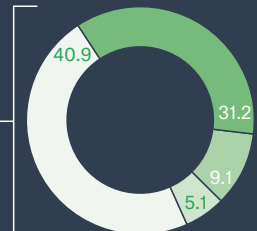
## Financial summary

### Church Commissioners' expenditure 2013 (£m)

Our parish ministry and mission grants include support for low income dioceses, mission development funding and research and development. We also continue to support the ministry of our archbishops, bishops and cathedrals. Other support includes some specific expenditure on church buildings, national clergy payroll costs and our own governance costs. Full details can be found in the Annual Report ([www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/churchcommissioners/annual-reports.aspx](http://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/churchcommissioners/annual-reports.aspx)).



- Pensions expenditure
- Non-pensions charitable expenditure
- Parish mission and ministry grants
- Archbishops' and bishops' ministry
- Cathedrals
- Other charitable expenditure

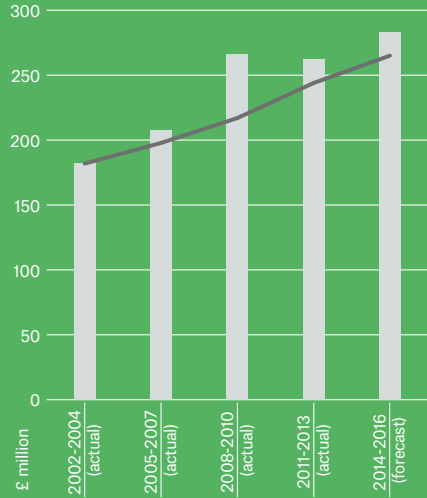


## Distribution strategy

We aim to meet our pension obligations and to maintain and, over time, grow in real terms our other financial support for the Church's mission and ministry. We plan our spending in three-year periods in consultation with stakeholders.

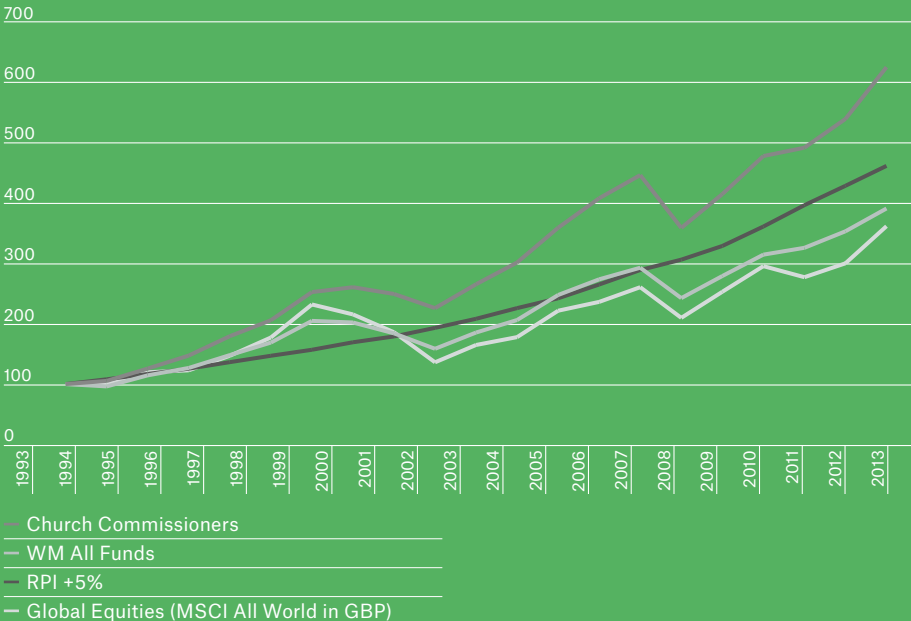
Expected non-pensions distributions in 2014-2016 are £283.8m, 56% above the level in 2002-2004. This is equivalent to an average annual increase of 3.8%, exceeding inflation over the period.

■ Actual/planned distributions  
 — 2002-2004 level increased by RPI



## Returns

Our investment objective is to generate a total return (capital gain and income) averaging RPI +5% per annum over the long term. Over the past 20 years our fund has achieved an average return of RPI +6.7% per annum. Our investment policy is to hold a diversified portfolio of investments across a broad range of asset classes consistent with our ethical guidelines. After taking account of expenditure, our fund has grown from £2.4 billion at the start of 1994 to over £6.1 billion at the end of 2013.



# Find out more...



[www.churchgrowthrd.org.uk](http://www.churchgrowthrd.org.uk)  
communicates work on Church  
growth research and development  
funded by the Church Commissioners



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