



The Church Commissioners for England

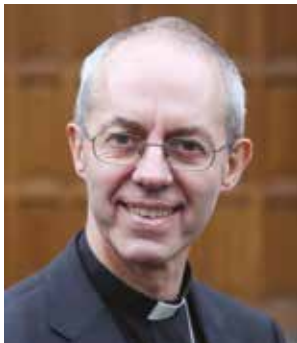
Investing in the Church's growth

The Church Commissioners
Annual Review 2015



Welcome

The Church Commissioners' work supports the Church of England as a Christian presence in every community. We manage an investment fund of £7bn. This report explores how the Commissioners invest the Church of England's historic resources and how we identify areas of need and actively support the work of the Church across the country.



2015 WAS YET ANOTHER EVENTFUL YEAR FOR THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. THERE IS CONSTANTLY MUCH TO BE DONE AND THE WORK OF THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS IS VITAL IN PROVIDING NECESSARY FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

JUSTIN WELBY, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Our contribution

The Commissioners contribute 15% towards the costs of the ministry and mission of the Church of England, including grants for church-run community projects across the country; stipends, office and working costs, and grants for bishops and archbishops; and supporting the costs of cathedrals. We also pay clergy pensions for service prior to 1998.

The rest of the balance comes from the generous giving of today's parishioners.

Our guiding principles

Mission

Supporting the Church to grow

Stewardship

Investing for future generations

Wisdom

Investing ethically with responsible governance



Celebrating the launch of St Luke's, Gas Street in Birmingham (p3)

The Plumb Family

“As parents of three young children we are passionate that they are engaging with Church in ways that make sense to them in their stages of faith.”

“Family life can be full of pressures and to have Christians, young and old, journeying with us through the ups and downs is so important.”

Strategic Development Funding

The Church Commissioners and Archbishops' Council support major growth and change projects in dioceses through Strategic Development Funding, and £18.5m was made available to be awarded to dioceses between 2014 and 2016.

Eight dioceses have so far received Strategic Development Funding including Birmingham, Chelmsford, Coventry, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, and Sheffield.



Growing Younger

In 2014, the Church Commissioners and Archbishops' Council awarded Birmingham Diocese £1m of Strategic Development Funding alongside £1.7m of its own funds to launch *Growing Younger*. The initiative seeks to welcome 2000 new regular worshippers to join Churches around Birmingham over five years by focusing on engagement with children, young people and families.

The aim of *Growing Younger*, explains the Bishop of Birmingham, David Urquhart, is *"to pass on the baton of the Christian gospel to children and families, and students and young adults as part of our vision of growing churches at the heart of each community."*

During 2015, the diocese has appointed missionaries to selected parishes to train, equip and inspire congregations to connect with younger generations and provide help to parishes that currently have very few children or families. In addition, ten mission apprentices are now working in more deprived areas in the diocese.

Dave and Hope Plumb, who worship with their family at the new city centre church, St Luke's, Gas Street (see right) said:

"Just as we have found a place to serve as fully participating members of our church, we love to see our children thriving too and finding ways that they can bring the transformative

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THE GROWING YOUNGER INITIATIVE HAS GIVEN US A RENEWED SENSE OF VISION FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST.

DAVE AND HOPE PLUMB

love of Jesus to those around them. As part of St Luke's, Gas Street the Growing Younger initiative has given us a renewed sense of vision for the body of Christ within an Anglican setting and we've seen lots of people taking steps to explore faith for the first time.

"It's a really exciting time to be a Christian in Birmingham!"



Gas Street

As part of the initiative supported by the Church Commissioners, a new city centre church, St Luke's, Gas Street, was launched in September 2015 to reach people in their 20s and 30s. The church has now grown to 300 members and moved into a converted warehouse in the city centre, aiming to engage with students and young adults and bring 'light for the city'.



Acceler8, Coventry

The Acceler8 project in Coventry Diocese received a grant of £640,000 of Strategic Development Funding to fast-track the growth of churches and ministry to those in their 20s and 30s, who are under-represented in the diocese.

Ian Sweeney, 20s and 30s development leader at St Anne and All Saints, Coventry said:

"We've really seen that the 20s and 30s we've worked with want to go deeper in their relationships with Jesus. From this group one of the young adults has really caught hold of the vision and is speaking to fellow students at her university and inviting them to an Alpha course."

Renewal and Reform

www.churchofengland.org/renewal-reform

Through *Renewal and Reform*, all of the national funding given to dioceses and parishes by the Church Commissioners and the Archbishops' Council will be explicitly directed to facilitating growth.

begin in 2017 with two new funding streams: money for mission in communities with fewer resources; and Strategic Development Funding which any diocese can apply for to invest in new growth opportunities.

This shift for funding mission activities and support for local ministry will

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PEOPLE HAVE SAID THAT THEY FELT THEY COULD ASK ME A QUESTION WHEN THEY MIGHT NOT DO SO AFTER A SERVICE. CREATING A SETTING WHERE PEOPLE CAN ASK THOSE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS HAS HELPED. THE IDEA WAS TO GET PEOPLE THINKING.

BISHOP OF DURHAM, PAUL BUTLER



The GAP, Sunderland Minster

Mission Development Funding supported Sunderland Minster in Durham Diocese to hold a series of staged 'chat shows' to present the Christian gospel through discussions over challenging social issues, with several hundred people attending.

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, special guests and Footprints Theatre Company staged the series in January 2015, taking a different theme on each of five days with each one featuring debates about some of the key issues facing the church and the wider society, supported by drama and music.

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WE WANTED TO CREATE A PLATFORM THAT WAS MEANINGFUL AND ENTERTAINING AND WOULD GRAB PEOPLE AND GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIRE QUESTIONS AT THE BISHOP IN A DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENT.

STEVE STICKLEY, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Rachel and Mia

When St Luke's Millwall formed a new congregation in 2013, one of the first activities they started was a parenting support group for local families, meeting in the local community centre.

Rachel and her daughter Mia began attending the group after hearing about it on the estate nearby, and now regularly attend church services. *"Sunday is my favourite day of the week"* Rachel said. *"As I walk to church I feel such excitement and joy."*

St Luke's Millwall received funding from the Developing Church Growth in Deprived Areas stream with a vision to grow into a vibrant and diverse Christian community in a challenging inner city neighbourhood.

Around 90 adults and children are now part of the church, and one of the church's core aims is to be a centre for family life for a growing and often disadvantaged local population.

The funding has enabled St Luke's to become self-sufficient to continue to serve the community on the Isle of Dogs.



Developing Church Growth in Deprived Areas

Twenty-eight projects around the country have continued to receive grants from the £2.9m of Developing Church Growth in Deprived Areas fund. This stream was first made available in 2011–13, and has been invested in projects around the country that were already proving to be effective drivers of mission and growth in deprived areas. Funding for more than half of the projects concluded at the end of 2015, with other projects receiving ongoing funding.

John and Kate

John Arkell and his wife Kate have been living on the Newcourt Development in Exeter for the last five years, and is funded by a grant for mission in new housing and other development areas.

John works as a Mission Enabler in partnership with Trinity Church, Exeter, and his work is focused on building community and relationships.

Initiatives have included: helping form a community association, a choir, a babies and toddlers group run by Christian parents for local families, a variety of special events; and a series of Sunday evening worship services have been launched in the community centre.

During a community consultation about a local play park, John and Kate met Sue, who with her husband Peter went on to play a big role in helping to open the new community centre.

Peter and Sue have come to John and Kate for advice and prayer, and they brought their daughter and her family to one of the first services Trinity Church held in the centre.



Funding for mission in new housing and other development areas

In 2008–10, the Church Commissioners and Archbishops' Council allocated £7.25m to 15 dioceses to support their mission in new housing and other development areas. Although this funding was accounted for by the end of 2010, it hasn't all yet been drawn down due to the economic downturn.



Church Alive St Mary's, Alverstone

Grant money from Mission Support Funding supports St Mary's Alverstone to run *Church Alive*, a contemporary church service designed for young families, which sees more than 100 children and adults attending each week.



Pioneer Minister for the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

Mission Development Funding is supporting pioneer ministry for the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford on the southern edge of Chelmsford Diocese.

In 2014, residents began moving into the East Village (the Athletes Village during the 2012 Olympics), mainly from the five surrounding London boroughs. The area and local community were unknown to them, resulting in little social cohesion and no obvious sense of community.

When Revd Annie McTighe moved into the village in the summer of 2014 with the help of the grant from the Church Commissioners, the Church was ideally placed to support the development of a community. Funding is now supporting Annie to plant Church E20, a missional community in a restaurant in the Park.

Mission and Ministry Support

Mission Development Funding was given to every diocese in 2015 to invest in new mission opportunities, as well as supporting clergy stipends.

Funding for diocese and ministry support is provided to dioceses with the least resources, and in 2015, £35.2m in block grants was given to 25 dioceses. This funding stream will be replaced as part of the plans under *Renewal and Reform* with money

available to encourage investment in growth, especially in poorer communities around the country.



**BUILDING
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IN ALL AREAS OF
THE COMMUNITY.**

REVD ANNIE MCTIGHE



Support for bishops

We meet the costs of the stipends and the office and working costs of the archbishops and bishops. Grants to diocesan bishops enables them to manage resources according to local need. We also provide housing for diocesan bishops.



THE PROJECT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE ENTHUSIASM AND COMMITMENT OF MORE THAN 200 TALENTED VOLUNTEERS FROM ACROSS THE DIOCESE, AND SCHOOLS REALLY VALUE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR FAITH STORIES FROM THE CHRISTIANS THEY MEET.

**EMMA ANDERTON,
CATHEDRAL EDUCATION OFFICER
AT SOUTHWELL MINSTER**

Time-travelling Pilgrimage

Southwell Minster invites primary school pupils from across Nottinghamshire to attend a time-travelling pilgrimage, an educational activity day for up to 350 children each day around the Minster exploring aspects of Christian worship and traditions through the ages as part of Religious Education teaching.

Support for Cathedrals

We meet the costs of the Dean and two residentiary canons at (almost) all cathedrals. In 2015 this support totalled £5.7m. We also gave grants targeted

on those cathedrals which are most in need. Cathedrals usually use the grant to support the cost of lay staff posts. In 2015 the grants totalled £3.5m.



Beth

Beth Harris works as Ministry and Mission Facilitator at St Swithin's Church in Lincoln, which received grant funding from the Church Commissioners to support the replanting of the church in the city centre.

In its first year, St Swithin's developed ministry and outreach to students, children and young people. Beth and the team have also supported the church in mission work in the city centre, and St Swithin's runs several community outreach projects including a clothes bank, hub cafe and an open youth club. They are working in partnership with other local churches across the city to 'join the dots' between all the community services.

In its role as a city centre resourcing church, St. Swithin's is now developing opportunities to work alongside other churches to support and help facilitate mission.

City Centre Resourcing Churches

This new stream to support City Centre Resourcing Churches was allocated £1.45m of unspent research and development funding from 2011–13. Funding for these churches is intended to support them for mission to develop other new congregations in their area, thereby stimulating growth across major cities.



