

Parish Offer

Across the country, local mission and ministry (such as the provision, housing, support for and training of clergy (both stipendiary and self-supporting) and laity, is funded by a variety of schemes, generally known as Parish Share or Parish Offer. Some of these schemes are based on charging a Parish a set amount for 'their share' of these costs and will be based on some sort of a formula, taking into account church size, the local economic situation etc.

In 2009, the Carlisle Diocese moved from a 'Share' type scheme, to one of a 'Parish Offer'. Each year, all Parishes are asked to prayerfully consider what offer it can make towards the overall costs of mission and ministry across the county, based on the principles of Generosity (giving generously in the knowledge that some parishes are able to give more than others), and Realism (giving a realistic amount means a Parish considering what can it can realistically give in the context of its own finances, but also in the knowledge that to fund ministry and mission effectively, these costs need to be met collectively from the Parish Offer).

The current Parish Offer system is undergoing a period of review, so that it remains relevant and appropriate in the changing church structures emerging in Cumbria, namely ecumenical Mission Communities. It is envisaged that going forward, Parish Offers will be made collectively by a Mission Community. A number of Mission Communities are currently working with the Diocese to pilot how this might work, and the final decision on taking this forward is likely to be presented to Diocesan Synod during 2019.

The generous giving of Parish Offer over many years has helped to finance the God-given challenge that we have – and in particular as part of the God for All strategy – seeking to help everyone in Cumbria discover more of God and God's purpose for their lives. The Diocese is extremely grateful for the sustained, generous, giving of offers from parishes to fund this work, and is acutely aware that these offers are only made possible by the generous and often sacrificial giving by members of the congregations and communities which make up our church family. Thank you!