

# Sustainable Finance

A Presentation for use with PCCs, Deanery Leadership Teams and other Groups

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Generous churches making & nurturing disciples



# What are our aspirations for growth?

- What more could you do in mission if:
  - You weren't worrying about covering the basic costs of your church?
  - You weren't anxious about funding a new roof or repairing the heating?
  - You could spend money on reaching people you currently don't rather than maintenance?
- This is what 'Sustain' is all about – parishes feeling confident about their future in mission
  - Reaching people we currently don't
  - Growing the church in every way

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# The Big Picture

- The past few years have been challenging for most of us in terms of attendance and growth
- We are looking to do some *serious* work in reaching 20s-40s and People in Poverty/in deprived areas
- Our emerging strategy contains some other key elements e.g. cost effective, expert support so that individual parishes can meet their local challenges
- We want to be bold and invest; as well as seeking funding from the Church Commissioners, we are encouraging everyone - at diocesan and parish level - to consider investing some of our accumulated wealth now, for the future
- We want everyone to be excited by this: because it represents a sea-change in the way we work together— but even more because it is based on a longing to *make disciples* and to respond to God's generosity to us
- Now is the time for all of us to really engage with what it means to be *Generous Churches... mutually resourcing ... making and nurturing disciples*

# Where does the money come from and where does it go?

## Parish Income:

Regular and  
one-off Giving: £16m  
Other income: £ 8m  
Total £24m

## DBF Costs:

Parish Ministry: £ 8.8m  
Vocations: £ 1.8m  
Other costs: £ 3.4m  
Total £14m

## Parish Costs:

Day-to-day  
running costs: £ 8m  
Repair &  
Maintenance : £ 6m  
Other expenses: £ 2m  
Total £16m

## Freewill Offer :

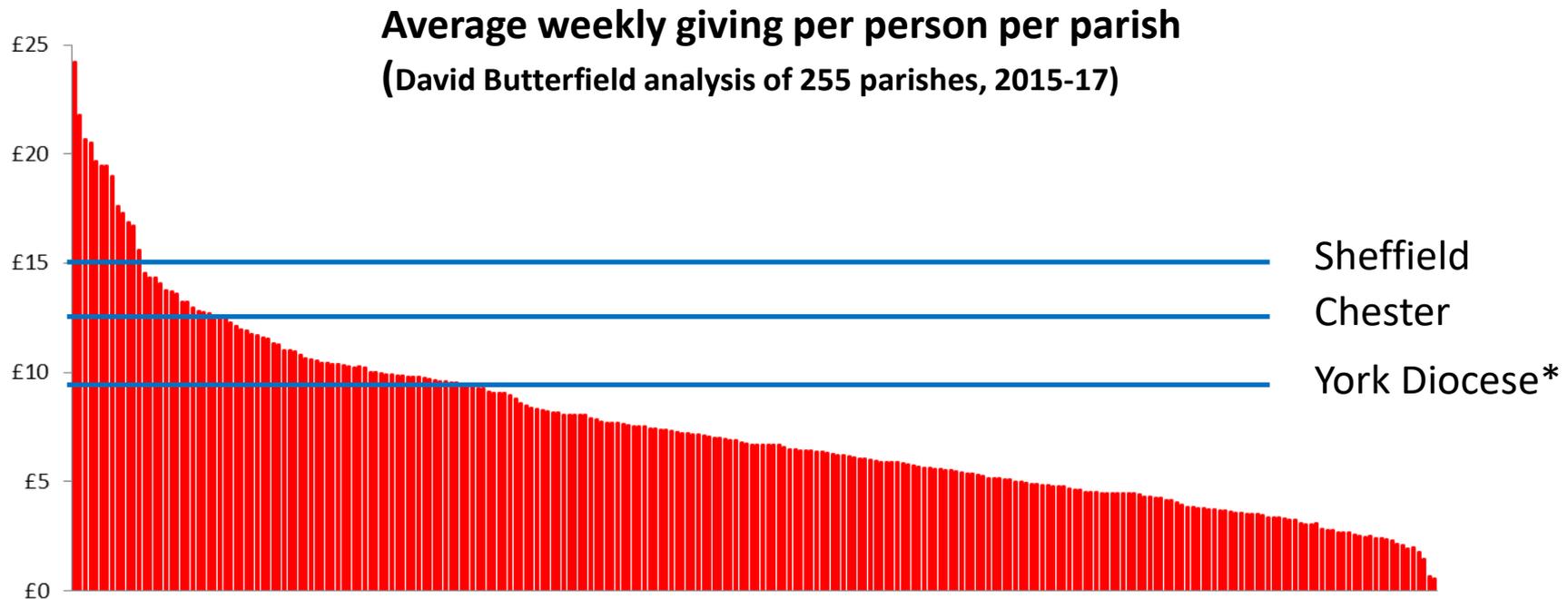
£8.4m

## Other DBF Income:

£5.6m

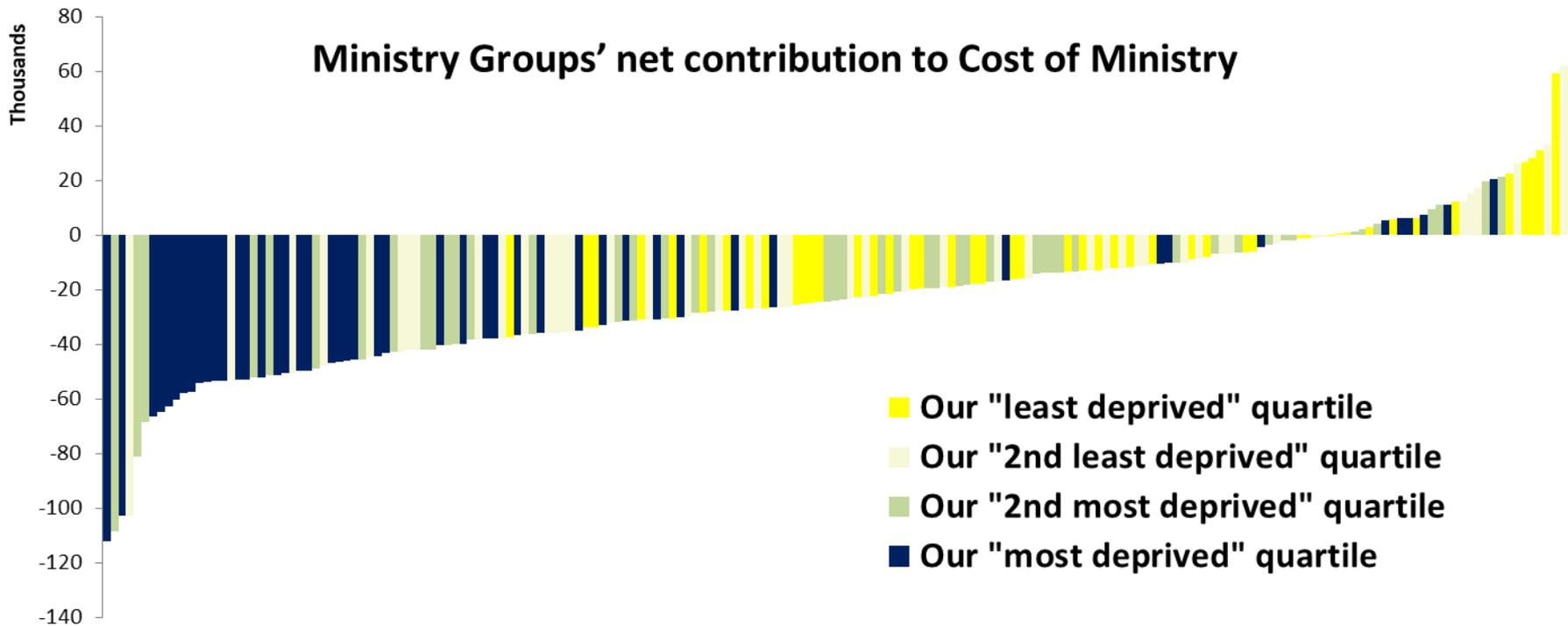
# Scale of the Challenge

1. The levels of individual giving per parish vary hugely and this is not related to deprivation. The key characteristic of those churches in the range £15 – 25 is their emphasis on intentional discipleship and good, consistent teaching on Christian giving.



# Scale of the Challenge

2. Church Commissioners' funding must increasingly be targeted to deprived parishes / ministry groups but that is not what we see today



## Scale of the Challenge

3. The forecast gap between Common Fund income and costs over the next 10 years widens, year by year, due to:
  - Reduction in Church Commissioners funding over the next 10 years from £2m to £1m, reducing income into the Common Fund by 8%
  - Parish income and Freewill Offer are not keeping apace with inflation
  - New strategy initiatives under 'Reach' and 'Grow' will increase the cost of parish-based ministry in the short and medium term without increasing income.

# Sustainable Finance Plan

Refresh and renew the Vision of 'Generous Churches, Making and Nurturing Disciples' *so that we can:*

- Increase parish income through:
  - A strong focus on intentional discipleship and good stewardship
  - Provide expert support for income generation: legacies, occasional office fees, grant-finding, use of buildings etc.
  - Introduction of Parish Giving Scheme: making our giving inflation-proof and helps with reclaiming Gift Aid
- Reduce parish costs through:
  - 'Low-cost-church', sharing buildings, mutual resourcing
  - Refresh Parish Buying Scheme
- Ensuring that an appropriate proportion of the additional funds come to the Common Fund through the FWO – *mutual resourcing*

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# Sustainable *Giving* Plan: Generous Churches, Making and Nurturing Disciples

Central to the Plan is our belief that:

- God loves his Church and is waiting to bless us, financially as well as through a renewed sense of engagement with his mission here in the Diocese. We just need to offer our ‘loaves and fishes’ and our earnest prayers.
- If we focus on ‘Intentional Discipleship’ ie a desire to see people’s lives transformed through becoming more Christ-like, then our financial situation in parishes and at diocesan-level will also be transformed

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