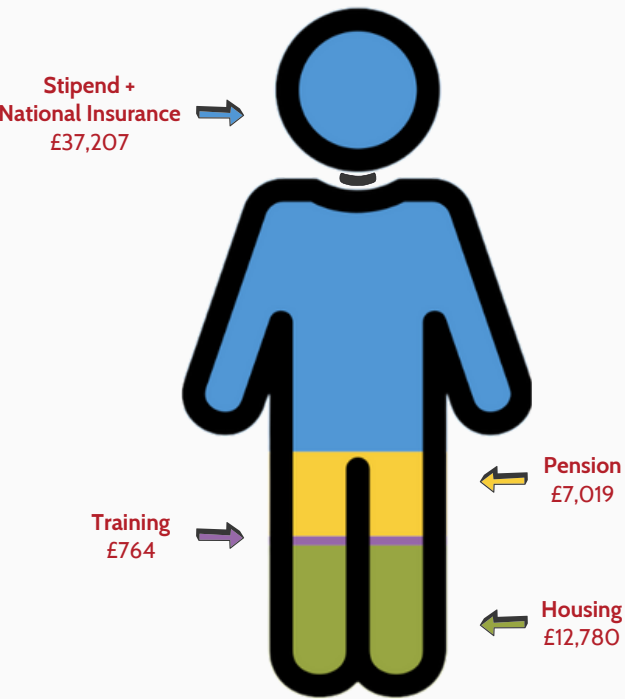


Estimated Costs for 2026

This figure reflects a full-time, stipendiary (paid), housed minister.

Direct Cost £57,770



As a result of an ongoing national review, we are expecting stipends to increase above inflation in 2026 - this is reflected above.

“
Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.
”

2 Corinthians 9.7-8

Our Diocesan Common Fund

The amount collected from parishes in Free Will Offers to our Common Fund is less than the cost of providing ministry across the Diocese of York.

When the Common Fund doesn't cover the cost of parish ministry and shared diocesan support, we have used reserves to meet the shortfall. This cannot continue.

Our Diocesan Synod agreed in 2022 that to support our shared call to Living Christ's Story;

- those able to contribute more than their direct cost of ministry to help support others should continue to do so, and those offerings need to increase annually with inflation
- by 2026 every ministry unit should at least meet the annual direct cost of the ministry it receives (after accounting for Lowest Income Communities Funding)
- by 2031 every Ministry Unit should also contribute a fair share of our shared support costs.

If we meet these targets, the budget will balance, and the deficit will end.

Our Shared Call

Thank you for what your parish is able to give in Free Will Offer – none of us could manage without you, or without your generous contributions. We are calling on all congregation members to pray for your PCC as they make the decision on the 2026 Free Will Offer. We encourage you to talk to your PCC members about your parish's pledge, and also to take this opportunity to reflect on your own giving and generosity.

For more information, please visit dioceseofyork.org.uk/FWO



Free Will Offer 2026

Understanding your contributions to the Diocesan Common Fund



DIOCESE OF YORK

Living Christ's Story

In the Diocese of York, we believe we are called to live Christ's story; to be a part of God's mission of love in and for the world today, and we need a flourishing and sustainable Church of followers of Jesus for this to happen.

Our Diocesan Synod has affirmed that we believe we can grow as a Church if we:

- Become more like Christ
- Reach those we currently don't
- Grow churches of missionary disciples which are younger and more diverse
- Transform our structures and finances

These goals, taken together, are what we mean by Living Christ's Story (LCS).

Through developing and implementing deanery plans, new patterns of ministry are emerging, but the financial situation of the family of churches that make up the Diocese of York remains challenging as our budget gap is **£2.4 million**.

To put this gap into perspective, this equates to each parishioner giving roughly another £3 per week.

Living Christ's Story has great potential, but we cannot realise our plans with the deficit we face.

Good News

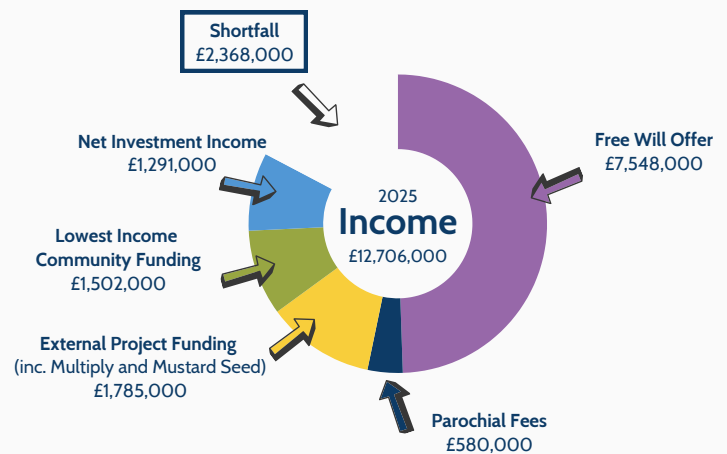
Several years into Living Christ's Story, some ministry units (a single church or group of churches, typically served by one incumbent or priest-in-charge) are now able to meet their Direct Cost of Ministry, either through reorganising with alternative ministry or raising their Free Will Offer. Many other ministry units are making progress towards this, and some already go beyond.

Making a Free Will Offer in 2025

Free Will Offer has always been about generosity. Each parishioner's giving allows their parish to make its Free Will Offer, which supports ministry in the parish and across the diocese. Parishes with more financial resources help to support those who have fewer resources.

Free Will Offer is not the only source of income for the diocese. Parts of the Diocese of York include areas of serious deprivation. Lowest Income Communities Funding (LICF) is money from the Church Commissioners, which supports ministry in those areas. Diocesan funds also benefit from external project funding, fee income and investment income.

The combined Free Will Offer from all parishes, along with our external income and investment income, needs to be enough to fund our costs. To guide your PCC in making this decision, this leaflet shows expected diocesan income for 2025 and the minimum base costs of ministry expected for 2026.



We are anticipating changes for 2026 in our national contributions. The Church Commissioners are likely to pay directly for some areas of their work which were previously funded by dioceses. This will benefit our diocese and has been reflected in our estimated costs. We also expect to receive some short-term funding to lessen the deficit in our budget.

Estimated Costs for 2026

How these costs are broken down per ministry unit:

Direct Costs	Direct Costs	£57,770
Shared Costs per ministry unit	New Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stipend, NI & Housing for curates• Grants to ordinands• Vocations team• Training for lay ministers, curates, and ordinands	£10,414
	Other Shared Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statutory Fees• Clergy relocation & standard grants• Mission & Ministry• Safeguarding• Pastoral Care & Parish Resourcing<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ e.g. Church Buildings, Generous Giving, Comms• Education• Children & Youth• Archdeacons• Diocesan Operations & Support	£18,044
	All Shared Costs subtotal	£28,458
Total Cost of Ministry		£86,228
Reduction due to other diocesan income (excluding LICF)		(£9,507)
Net Total Cost of Ministry		£76,721

The Net Cost of Ministry for other ministers is as follows:

	Direct Cost	Net Total Cost
Full time	£57,770	£76,721
Half Stipend	£35,656	£47,027
House for Duty	£13,543	£21,123