

Why this matters

Free Will Offer helps parishes do what they cannot easily do alone. It's how we share responsibility so the Church can be present and serving in every community. This is what it means to be one body: sharing resources so that every parish — whatever its size or income — can flourish in local ministry.

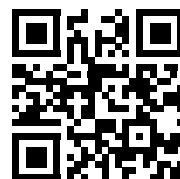
Being one body depends on a shared commitment. Ministry and shared diocesan services currently cost more than the diocesan common fund receives from parishes, with an underlying budget gap of around £2.1 million. To offer some perspective, this is equivalent to every person in our congregations contributing an additional £3 per week to the common fund. Increased generosity ensures that every community can continue to worship, welcome, and serve.



Thank you

As one body, we share both the joy and the responsibility of God's mission across the Diocese of York. Thank you for everything you give - for your prayers, time, skills, and money - to help the Church be present in every community.

If you'd like to know more, speak to your PCC treasurer or church leaders, or go to:
dioceseofyork.org.uk/FWO.



Get in touch

01904 699 500

office@yorkdiocese.org (RE: Free Will Offer)

dioceseofyork.org.uk/FWO



**LIVING
CHRIST'S
STORY**



@dioceseofyork

York Diocesan Board of Finance (Diocese of York)
Amy Johnson Way, York, YO30 4XT
Charity No. 244976 | Company No. 225234



**DIOCESE OF
YORK**



One Body in Christ

What the diocese is
(and why it matters)

Your giving makes local church life possible

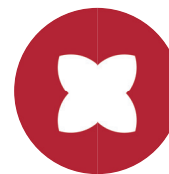
When you give money in church (whether on the collection plate, by standing order, or online), your gift usually goes first to your local parish. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) uses this money to fund day-to-day church life, including heating and lighting, insurance, local mission, and running costs.

Your parish is part of something bigger

Your church is also part of the Diocese of York – a family of 440+ parishes and their people, working together to share the good news of Jesus and to serve our communities across 2,760 square miles.

When people talk about ‘the diocese’, they often think of the boards, councils, and staff teams that oversee different areas of the Church’s work. Those are important, but they exist to serve the life and mission of our parishes.

How the diocese is funded



Each parish (through its PCC) makes an annual contribution to the diocesan common fund called Free Will Offer. This helps meet the cost of ministry locally and shares ministry costs and diocesan services across the whole diocese. It funds things that most parishes could not provide on their own.

What your giving pays for

Ministry in your parish

Through Free Will Offer, the York Diocesan Board of Finance helps cover the cost of ministers’ stipends, National Insurance, pensions, training, and housing support.

Mission and ministry across the diocese

Free Will Offer also helps fund support that parishes share across the diocese, including:

- Safeguarding advice and training
- Vocational advice and training for new ministry

- Training and learning for clergy and lay ministers
- Clergy wellbeing
- Buildings guidance and faculties
- Schools support and Church of England education work
- Practical expertise (finance, HR, governance, property, compliance, communications, data protection)
- Mission and growth resources and investment

Some diocesan support is visible, but much of it happens behind the scenes, helping parishes stay safe, sustainable, and confident in mission.

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” *Luke 6:38 (NRSV)*

