

# Funding the Kingdom



**How the Mission  
& Ministry Fund  
Works**



Discovering God's Kingdom  
Growing the Church

## Why we contribute to a fund

The Mission & Ministry Fund (MMF) is a system to ensure that the Anglican Church has a presence in every part of the Diocese of Truro, including the Isles of Scilly.

It is a sign of our commitment to proclaim Christ's Gospel and to share our resources with fellow Christians, and is a tangible way of supporting our mission of helping communities to discover God's Kingdom and to grow the Church.

### First Principles

Our constant guide is the Biblical theme that 'our giving is always in response to God's overwhelming love'.

*'Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God,'* writes St John in his First Letter. *'God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

*Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.'*

(1 John 4:7 & 9-11)

**All our giving, whether as parishes or individuals, stems from this one fact – that God first loved us.**

### First Church

The best picture of this overflowing generosity in the early Church is to be found in the Acts of the Apostles. There, St Luke writes, *'Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.'*(Acts 4: 32-35)

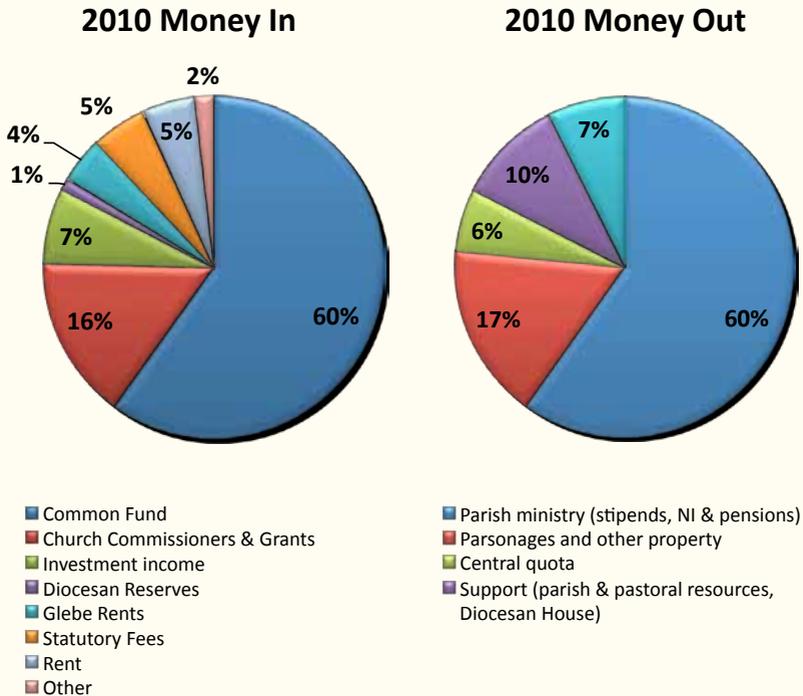
**None of this has changed between then and today.**

## How does the MMF work?

The money generously given by every parish in the Diocese of Truro is used to train, pay, house and meet the pension contributions of all our clergy.

The MMF is also used to meet parish support costs, including Reader and lay ministry training.

In 2010, the total MMF received represented 60% of the total Diocesan budgeted income; whereas the costs of clergy stipends and housing alone accounted for 77%. This gap was filled mainly by funding from the Church Commissioners and Diocesan Investment



### Your MMF contributions are not used to pay for:

- The Cathedral
- The Bishops' stipends and expenses of office

## What you told us

In March 2010, we invited parishes to tell us the elements on which they would prefer the Common Fund formula to be based. We also sent summaries of the six most common formulae used by other dioceses.

Over 130 parishes responded (only 55 parishes responded to a similar consultation in 2007). Overwhelmingly you preferred the present income-based formula, but with some changes.

You said that:

- 1) you do not like the sometimes sharp adjustments when the formula is re-based every 3 years
- 2) you would prefer a 'rolling average'
- 3) you do not think it right that parishes who make a big effort to increase their assessable income should not be able to retain some of it for mission activities within their parish. Indeed, some larger parishes asked for help in meeting some of the expenses of employing people involved in mission activities, e.g. school chaplains and youth workers
- 4) in parishes which have experienced a sharp decline in income, (e.g. when a generous giver moves or dies), you want to see that decline in income reflected in their assessment.

## Working together

No formula can produce the perfect solution. There will always be parishes that, through a variety of circumstances, find themselves facing difficulty in meeting their MMF.



Some parishes may wish to assist neighbouring parishes by helping them with their commitments; and we shall also continue to retain a small pool of funds in the Pastoral Resource Fund to assist parishes in genuine difficulty.

## Think (& act) Deanery

We want to encourage innovation. So deaneries may apply to allocate and collect the MMF for constituent parishes in a way that recognises local issues and helps neighbouring churches to discover ways of working more closely together and sharing resources more effectively.

They could, for example, take the combined MMF for all the parishes in the deanery and, recognising the particular circumstances of each parish, determine the amount each parish is asked to contribute towards the total sum and then collect it and submit it to the diocese on behalf of all the deanery's constituent parishes.

### What we can achieve together

- Sharing our faith & values
- Serving the community
- Worshipping together
- Valuing our buildings

## Administration

For the revised formula to operate fairly, it will be essential that Returns of Parish Finance are submitted as soon as possible after the Annual Parish C M and before 31 May each year.

To facilitate this process, Returns are to be submitted to a suitably qualified person appointed by each deanery who ensures that the information fulfils requirements and who resolves any difficulties with the Returns to mutual satisfaction at a local level.

The Return has been redesigned to make this task easier for PCC treasurers and is accompanied by a clear set of instructions.

## The Future

Discovering God's Kingdom and Growing the Church is changing the way we do Church in Cornwall. So there might need to be a further review and refining of the formula in about three years to take account of this evolution and development.

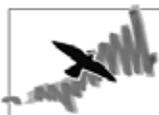
# The new MMF formula

The new formula has responded to each of the primary concerns expressed by parishes during the consultation described on the preceding page. To better reflect its purpose, we have given it a new name – the **Ministry & Mission Fund**.

## Average assessable income

The MMF is based upon the Average assessable income of each parish. What is the 'average assessable income'?

It is the recurring income from general and restricted funds, less fund-raising costs and costs of trading over the most recent 3-year period for which figures are available.



**DIOCESE OF TRURO**

Diocesan House Kenwyn Truro Cornwall TR1 1JQ

## Mission and Ministry Fund apportionment -

<b>Parish of St Example</b>		<b>2012</b>
Averaged assessable income		61,072
less Church Buildings allowance		-
<b>Income percentage applied to</b>		<b>61,072</b>
<b>Mission and Ministry fund</b>		<b>74.54%</b>
Mission and Ministry fund before capping		45,524
Mission and Ministry Fund Cap		(6,450)
<b>Mission and Ministry Fund charge for 2012</b>		<b><u><u>39,074</u></u></b>
<b>Averaged assessable income</b>		
	2008	56,719
	2009	87,031
	2010	87,466
		<u>231,216</u>
3 year average		77,072
less mission allowance 2012		<u>(16,000)</u>
<b>Averaged Assessable income</b>		<b><u><u>61,072</u></u></b>

## 'Capping' incentive to increase parish income

Annual increases are limited to an increase over the previous year of either the MMF increase or the Retail Price Index (whichever is the greater) plus 5%.

Parishes whose income increases by above the 'cap' are able to retain in full the 'above-cap' increase.

## Church Buildings Allowance (CBA)

For parishes with average assessable income below £20,000 per annum, there is a graduated approach with a series of triggering steps: Income <£10,000 (£1,500 allowance),

£10,000 - £15,000  
(£1,000 allowance),

£15,000 - £20,000  
(£500 allowance)

and >£20,000  
(nil allowance).

### United parishes

Where parishes unite to form a single 'parish', each former individual parish may, if its recurring income met the criteria described above, claim a CBA.

## Final Statement 2012

Deanery Example Major

see explanation below

### Church Buildings Allowance

For parishes with average assessable income:

less than £10,000 = £1500

between £10,000 and £14,999 = £1000

between £15,000 and £19,999 = £500

£20,000 and over = no allowance

MMF Cap limits the increase over the previous year  
to RPI/Common Fund increase plus 5%

**2.75%** RPI/CF increase

**£36,264** Previous year Common Fund as payable

Assessable income is recurring income from general and restricted funds  
less fundraising costs and costs of trading.

Special appeals and legacies are not included.

Mission Allowance is an allowance towards the cost of employing mission staff  
It must be applied for in advance from Diocesan House

## Mission Allowance (MA)

Parishes who employ mission staff may receive a Mission Allowance. Application for this is made in advance and before 31 May in the year preceding the year in which it applies.

The MA applies for one year and has to be applied for each year. The amount of the MA is deducted from the MMF payable by the parish.

## Things you might like to do

- **SWOT analysis** on the efficacy of your fund-raising activities
- **Newspaper (or Cup of Coffee or Glass of Wine) Challenge** to encourage people to increase their weekly giving by a small, manageable increment
- Encourage **wider use of the church building** as a community facility
- Explore ways of **working more closely with neighbouring parishes**
- **Make full use** of all Diocesan resources



For more information, visit [www.trurodiocese.org.uk](http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk)  
or contact David Watson, Common Fund Officer,  
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