



Parish Grants and Welfare Grants

Briefing and Update

Item 10

What is this about?

Since 2023 grants have been available to parishes funded by additional income from total return investment strategy

In 2024 historic restricted funds for social causes within the diocese have been reviewed with new promotion, accessibility and governance, and with additional historic funds brought within diocesan management

This presentation will explain these funds and how they can be accessed

Parish Grants

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Additional investment income allocated for parish grants:

Year	Sum	Notes
2022	£642k	Allocated by Bishop's Council for specific purposes
2023	£500k	Mostly allocated by Bishop's Council for specific purposes
2024	£500k	Budgeted: will be released on common fund surplus
2025	£500k	Budgeted: will be released on common fund surplus

Parish Grants

Bishop's Council have so far allocated funds for various grant schemes:

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|---|-------|
| • Parish mission and other projects | £575k |
| • Parish small mission and other grants | £42k |
| • Parish energy audits | £50k |
| • Parish net zero carbon projects | £315k |
| • Net Zero Carbon Officer | £60k |
| • Parsonage estate energy audits | £50k |

Parish Grants – Mission Initiatives

Major grants have been agreed for 18 parishes:

- 17 for additional staff appointments – several of which support specific mission activities with children and young people
- 1 for church enhancements to facilitate a disability ministry

Small grants, up to £1,000 have been given to more than 50 parishes

Parish Grants – Net Zero Carbon Initiatives

Major grants have been agreed for 8 parishes:

- 7 for substantial heating schemes with electric, heat pump and solar replacements for traditional gas systems
- 1 for a major lighting renewal scheme

More than 20 parishes have had grants towards energy audits

Parish Grants – 21 special parishes

Parishes within the old Metropolitan Police Area can access funds that we hold from the City Churches Fund.

Its not fair, but it is what it is, and we try it make it work for all.

The figures before include one mission grant and two net zero grants for City Churches Fund parishes. These projects have been funded from the City Churches Fund leaving more funding available for our 320 or so other parishes.

Parish Grants – how do I access them?

For Mission Initiative grants talk to your Archdeacon and the Mission and Ministry team. Details are on the website:

[Diocesan Mission Grants - The Diocese of St Albans \(stalbandsdiocese.org\)](https://stalbandsdiocese.org)

For Net Zero Carbon grants talk to your Archdeacon and to Tom Abraham, Net Zero Carbon Officer. Details are on the website:

[Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Grants - The Diocese of St Albans \(stalbandsdiocese.org\)](https://stalbandsdiocese.org)

Welfare Grants

What Welfare Funds are there?

Historic funds consolidated into the DBF, typically in areas of moral welfare or other aspects of social concern. Some cover particular geographical areas, others specific areas of social concern.

Historically many of the individual funds were administered through the Board of Social Responsibility and subsequently the Board of Mission and Ministry.

The total value of five such funds was £742k at the end of 2023.

What Welfare Funds are there?

We have renewed commitment to spend these funds to meet situations of need within the diocese and to do this we need clear communications and simple systems.

We now have a good governance framework which can respond quickly and clear communication and accessible forms on the website:

[Diocesan Welfare Funds - The Diocese of St Albans \(stalbandsdiocese.org\)](http://stalbandsdiocese.org)

What Welfare Funds are there?

Two other funds are being brought within this governance framework, one for work specifically in the Bishops Stortford area, one for work to address homelessness.

We also hope to have a significant fund available to address areas of disability.

What are we asking you to do?

Consider the funds available and whether they might apply to situations in your parish.

Consider whether funds could make a significant difference to someone, or a family, or a group of people in need – and follow the guidelines and use the application form to apply for a grant.