



## Statistical and Financial Review 2022

This report is largely compiled from the Trustees Annual Reports completed by each of our Parishes, and closely follows the format of our 2021 Report, to ease comparisons.

### Major messages

- The Church of England in the Deanery of Colchester is a major force for mission and social action.
- Our 24 Parishes, each a separate Charity, are run by a total of 326 Trustees (PCC members), and there are 1,965 adult members on our Electoral Rolls.
- There are currently 33 Ordained and Lay Licensed Ministers in the Parishes, of whom currently 12 are Stipendiary, supported by 15 active retired Clergy and other ministers including Chaplains.
- Our Voluntary Giving and other income totalled £1,948,000 and our costs totalled £1,921,000.
- Voluntary Giving averaged £15.13 per Electoral Roll member per week.
- Monetary assets in the Parishes total £4,057,000, of which £2,821,000 is not restricted to specific use.

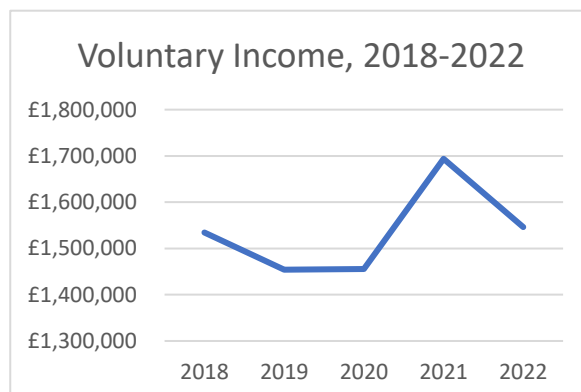
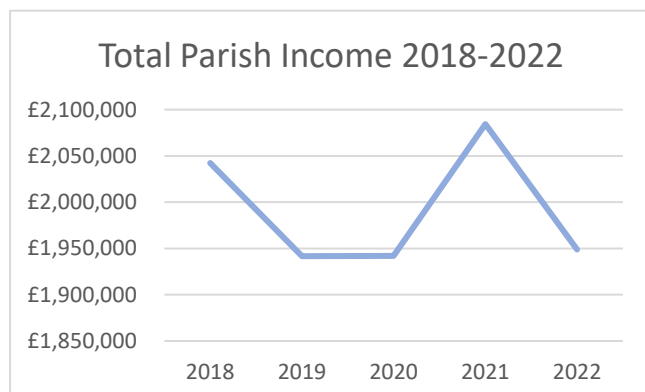
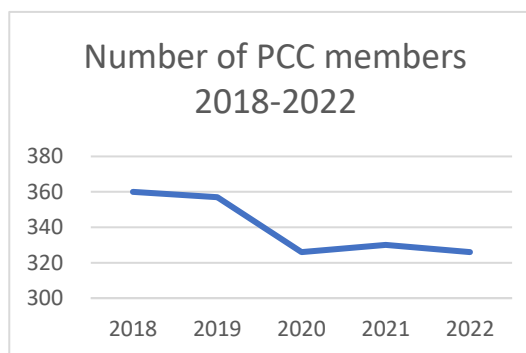
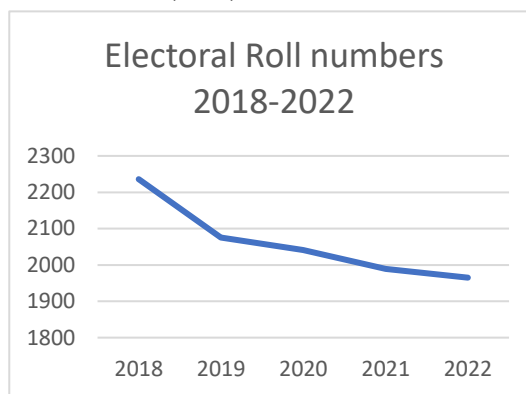
### Five-year trends: Membership & Income

Membership numbers, significantly affected by Covid-19 closures, have not returned to previous levels but have continued to decline slightly. The decline over the last 5 years was 13.5%.

The number of PCC members has also reduced, but only by 7%.

The level of income has varied significantly over the last 5 years. The largest reason for this has been the arrival of legacies in certain Parishes; other than that, most Parishes are reporting modest and steady growth in income.

Voluntary income, especially that which relied on Church attendance such as from plate collections, was much reduced during the closures, but Parishes sought to increase the

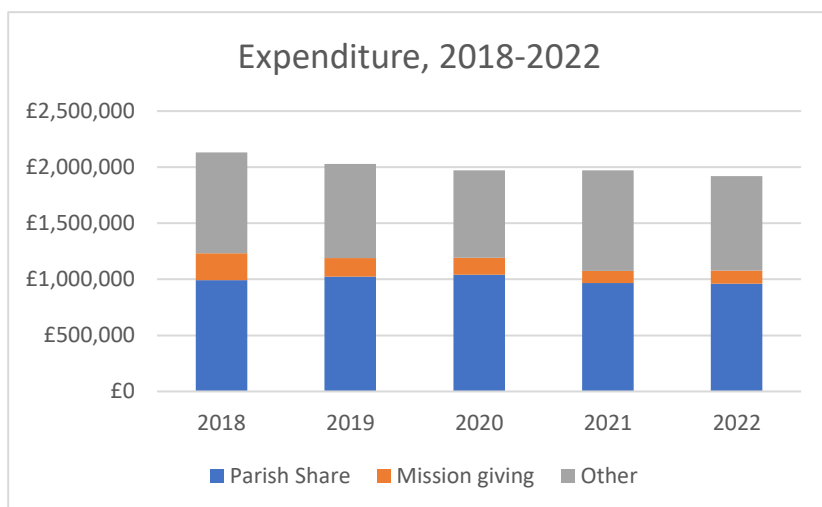


proportion of members paying by Standing Order or the Parish Giving Scheme, with considerable success. The dip in 2022 would appear to be a reduction in one-off gifts, such as legacies.

Membership figures do not include the substantial numbers of people impacted by new worshipping communities, where the costs provided by the Strategic Development Fund (SDF) are also excluded.

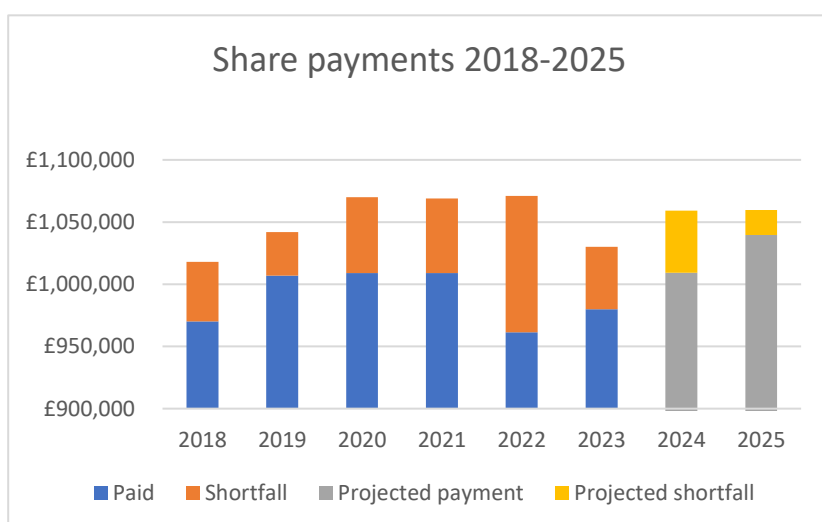
### Expenditure

Total expenditure by the Parishes has decreased by almost 10% since 2018, and is lower in each of the three main categories. Costs expended on Parishes' mission and maintenance have reduced from £900,000 to £844,000; direct charitable giving is slightly lower at £115,000 (though much of a Parish's work is directly in support of local charities and missions); and the Parish Share payments were 3% lower than in 2018.

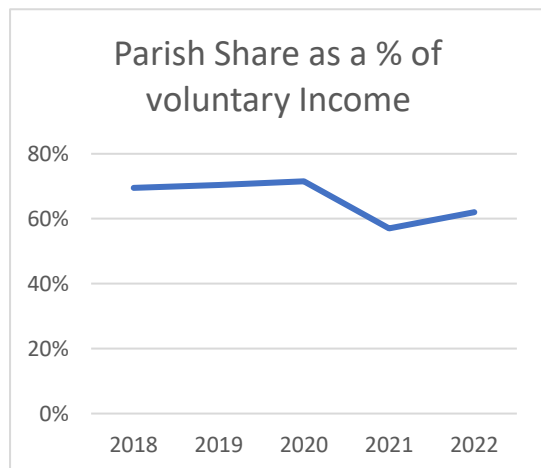


### Total Parish Share payments

The increased total amounts paid in Parish Share in the years 2018 to 2020 largely reflect inflation; a lower number of Stipendiary ministers negated the rise in 2021; the lower Share payment and greater shortfall in 2022 largely reflect the impact of Covid; Shares are lower under the new Scheme in 2023; and we have projected 3% increases for 2024 and 2025.



### Parish Share in comparison to Voluntary Income



As indicated above, the levels of voluntary income have varied in recent years; greater income in 2021 (including substantial legacies) meant that the proportion paid in Share was less; the percentage in 2022 is still less than in recent years, which peaked at 72% in 2020.

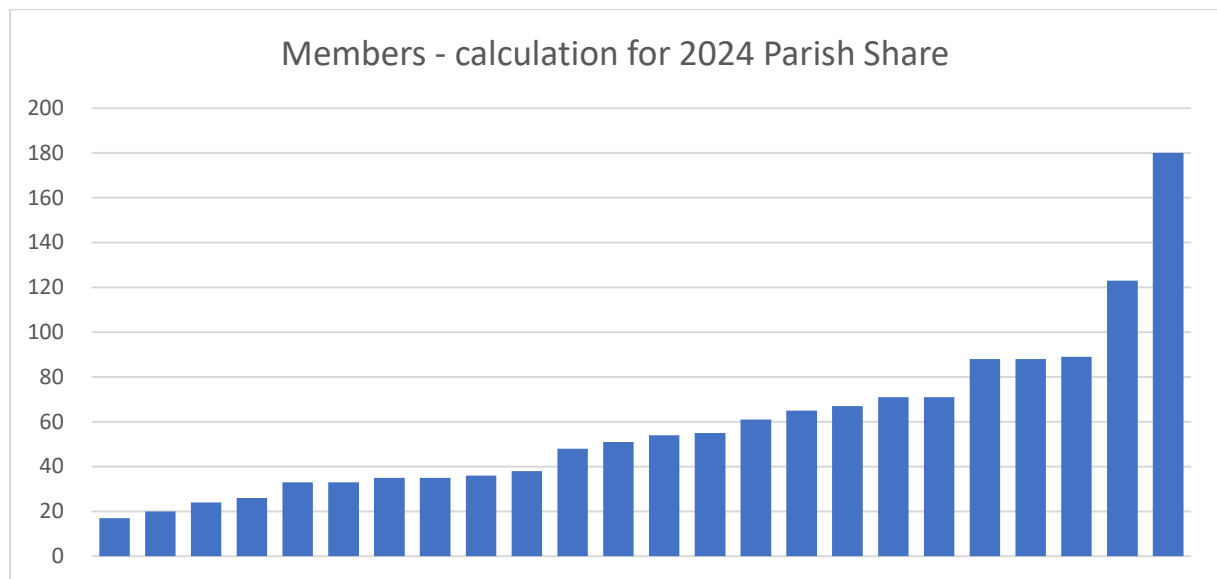
### Parish comparisons

Parishes may wish to calculate the figures and trends from their own Audited Accounts and projections to assist planning and

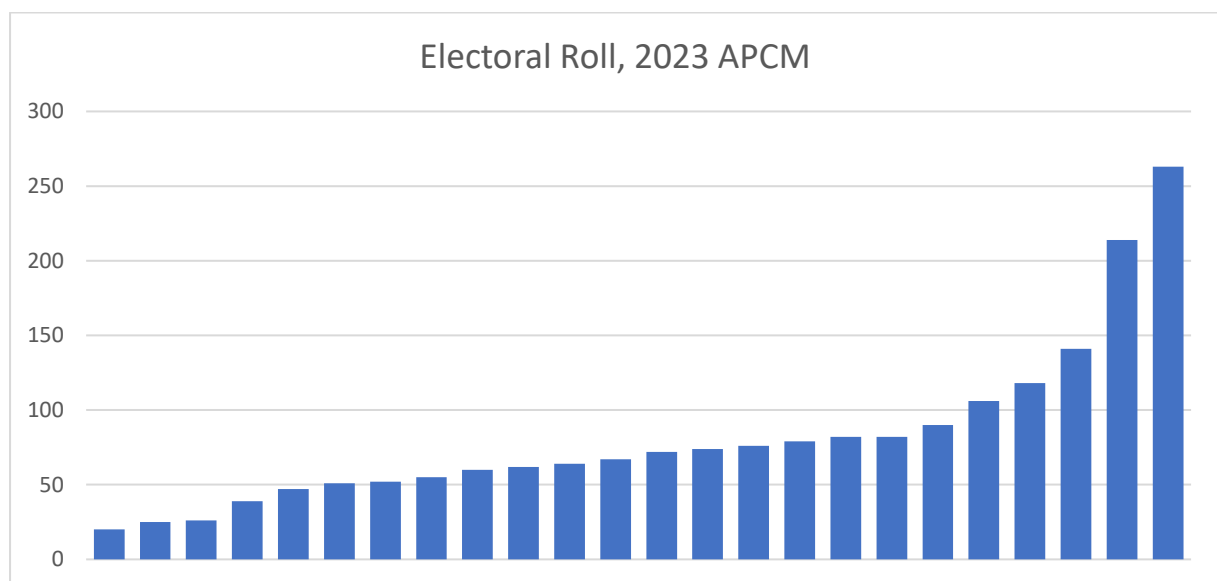
stewardship. The charts which follow show the figures for all 24 Parishes, unnamed; the bars are in ascending order for each calculation, and so Parishes are likely to appear in a different position on each chart.

## Number of members

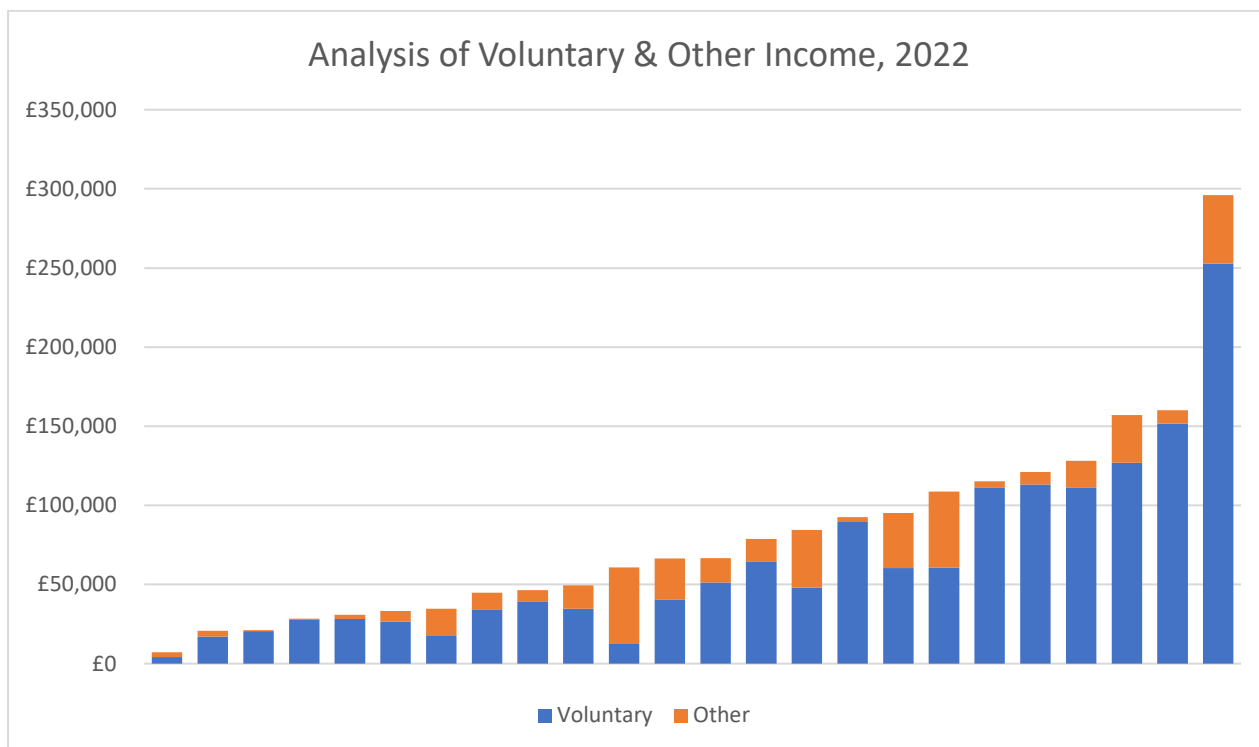
The way in which the Diocese calculates the number of members in a Parish has changed as part of the new Parish Share Scheme, and the method is explained on the Diocesan website. In brief, it is generally lower than in the past, and is designed to portray the number of people in the Parish who are likely to contribute financially. This chart shows the range of congregation sizes, in terms of this calculation:



Electoral Rolls give a rather different view; those for some Parishes are extended to include members of the local community with a sense of care for the Church; others largely reflect the worshipping community.

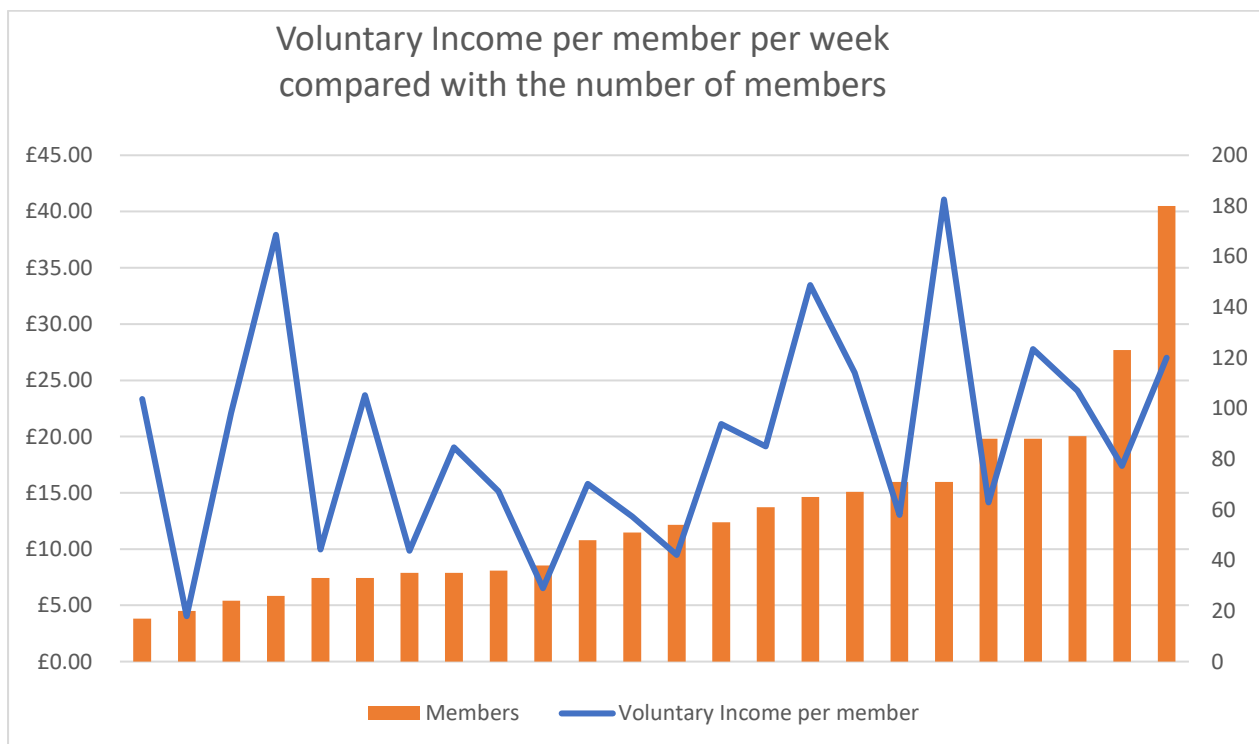


## Income



Income opportunities are unique for each Parish. Voluntary income from members will vary with the capacity and commitment to contribute; some Parishes have active Friends organisations, where the income and assets may or may not be reflected in the PCC's accounts. Some Parishes augment voluntary income by fundraising events, and some have community halls and other sources of trading income.

### Voluntary Income per member



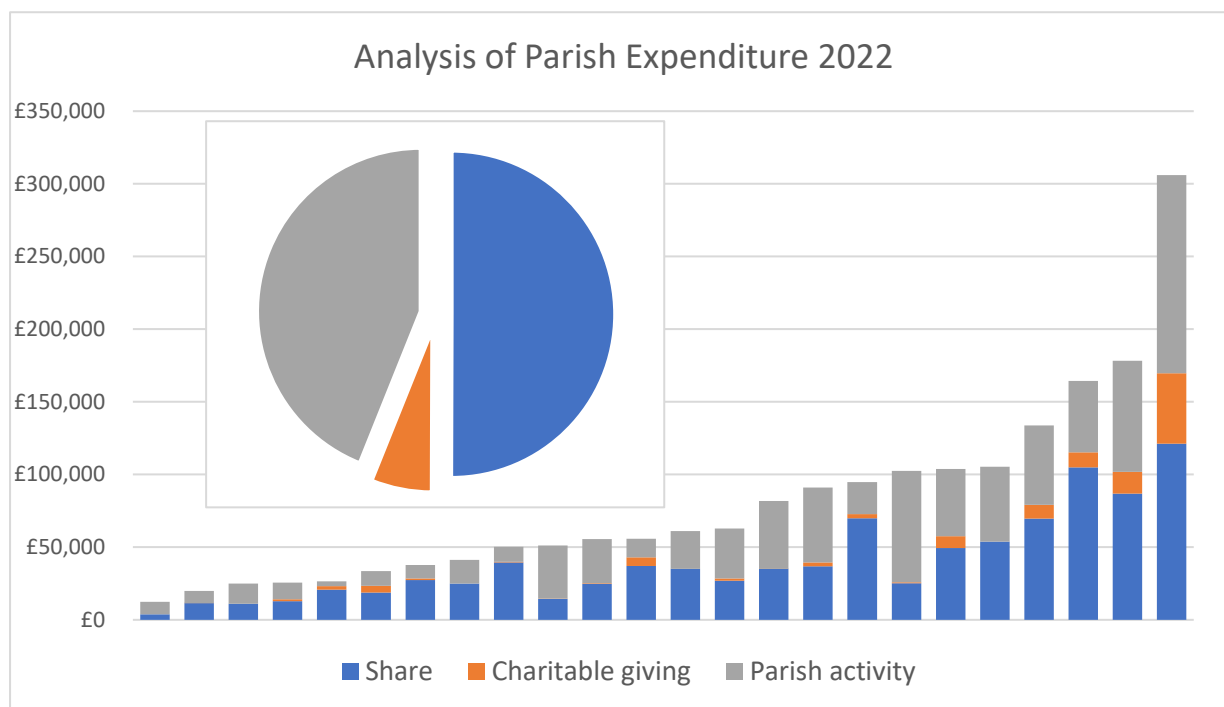
For this calculation, we have used the number of members indicated for the 2024 Parish Share Scheme, and the total Voluntary Income shown in the 2022 audited accounts (and assumed 52 weeks). It can be seen that there is rarely a correlation

between the size of the Parish congregation and the level of giving per person, which varied widely from just under £5 to over £40 per person per week.

It may well be that few people in the Parish give the Parish's average amount; in most Parishes around 80% of the funds may be donated by 20% of members, and in some Parishes that comparison is more extreme.

However, the overall message is that the level of giving varies considerably across the Deanery, which is likely to reflect comparative levels of affluence and deprivation, and in some cases reveals an opportunity for a Stewardship Campaign.

## Costs



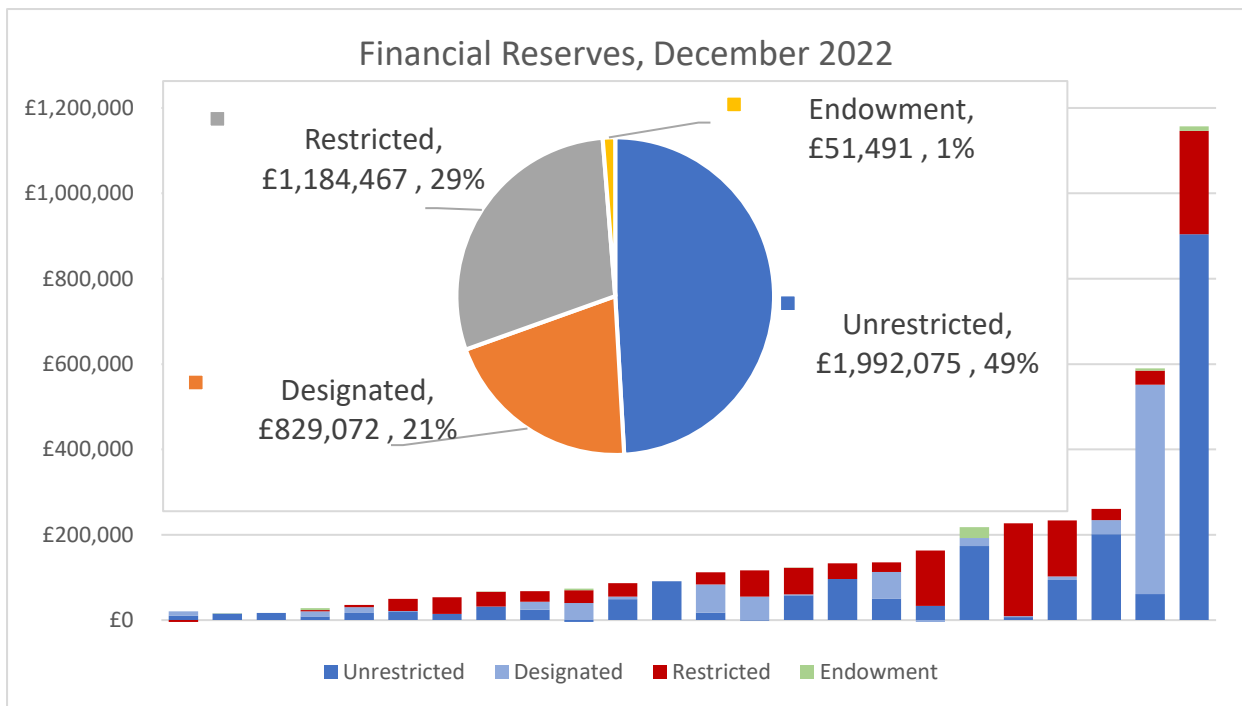
The cost profile of our Parishes varies considerably, and is as varied as the personal experience of Parishioners. Churches, as well as individuals, may find that income barely covers costs, leaving little opportunity for charitable giving or discretionary spend. In those cases, the cost of ministry will be a greater proportion of total costs. On the chart above, it can be seen that for smaller Parishes the proportion of the cost base paid in Share can be far greater than the 50% Deanery average; for larger Parishes, levels of income offer more flexibility, including the ability to employ mission workers.

However, the size of the Church building(s) will not be in proportion to the size of the Parish or congregation, so maintenance costs may be a significant burden upon smaller Parishes. As for individuals, Churches may be 'asset rich but cash poor'.

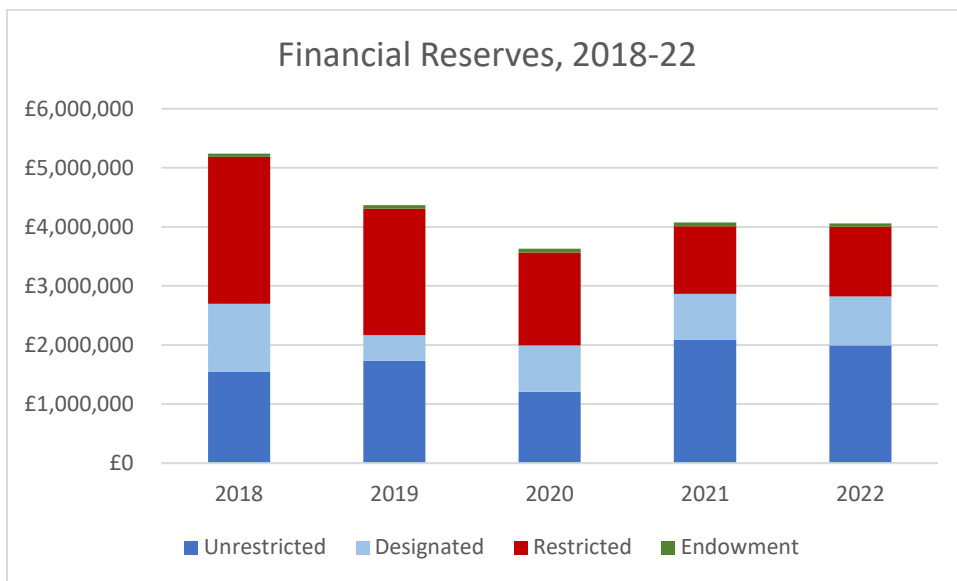
## Assets and reserves

Whilst the state of Parish finances cannot be usefully compared, PCCs may wish to see how varied they are. The following charts analyse bank balances and investments, but exclude the value of any PCC buildings or fixed assets.

Financial assets in Parishes at the end of 2022 can be shown as follows, revealing vast disparities in the extent of Parish reserves:

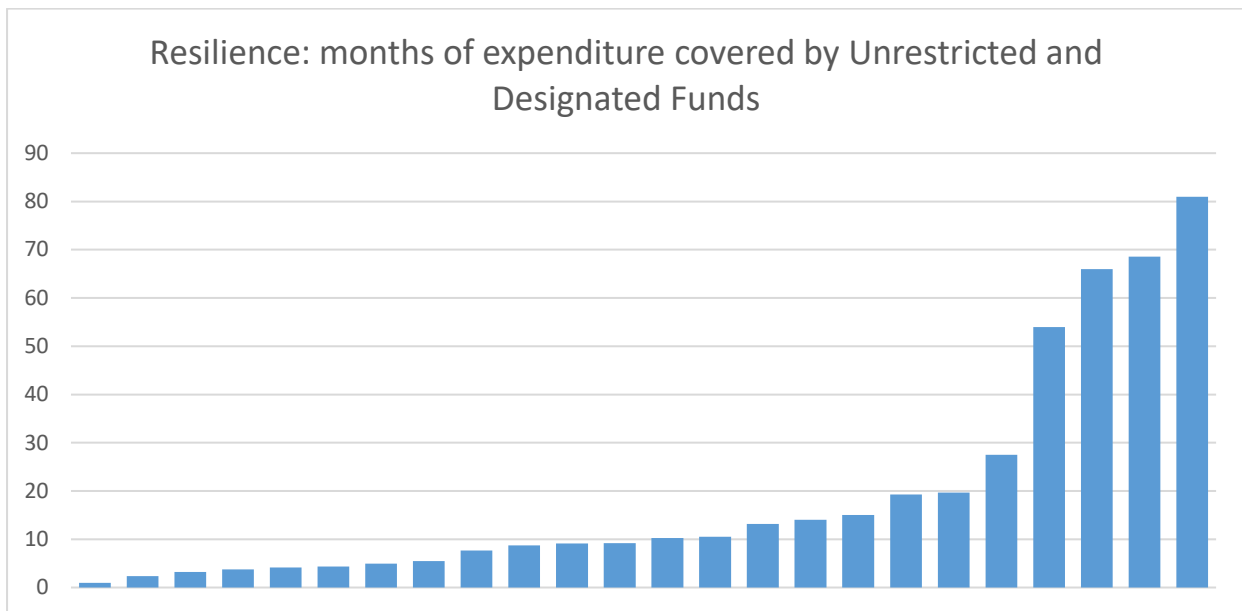


Also relevant is the 5-year trend; most striking are the use of Restricted and Designated Funds in 2019; the reduction of Unrestricted Funds in 2020; the use of Restricted Funds in 2021; the recovery of Unrestricted Funds in 2021 largely due to legacies; and the minimal overall change in 2022.



The Charity Commission's standard recommendation is that Charities should maintain liquid assets sufficient to provide for the costs of three months' routine activity, although the Commission recognises that this rule of thumb is not appropriate for all organisations.

In some Parishes, regular giving and other income are used almost immediately for Share and maintenance costs; in others, historic income has provided a substantial buffer, as can be seen below.



Cover is less than three months in only two of our Parishes.

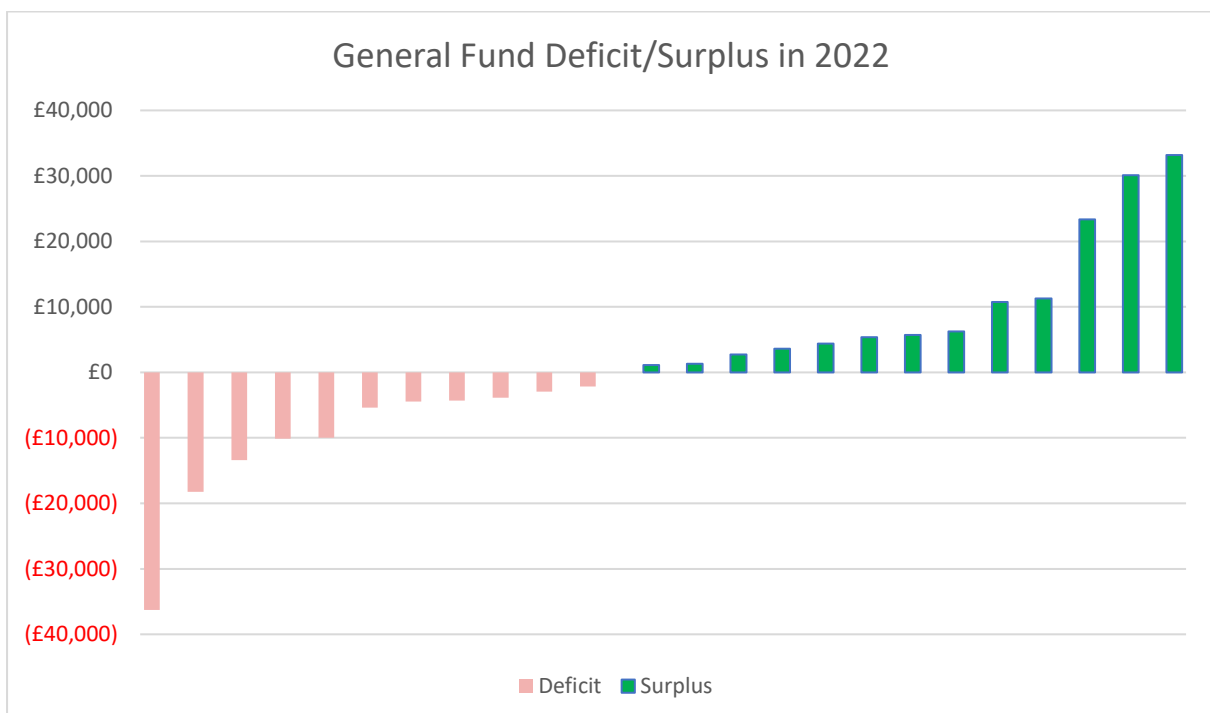
### Viability

In any not-for-profit organisation, it may be expected that income will be higher or lower than expenditure in any year, but a trend of consistent deficits or surpluses would be more telling. In 2022, 13 Parishes recorded a surplus, and 11 a deficit.

In the last five years:

- 3 Parishes recorded a surplus in each of the five years;
- 3 Parishes had only one negative year;
- 5 Parishes had two years of deficit;
- 3 Parishes had three years of deficit;
- 8 Parishes had four negative years; and
- 2 Parishes showed deficits in each of the five years.

The Deanery in total showed deficits in 2018, 2019 and 2020, and net surpluses in 2021 and 2022.

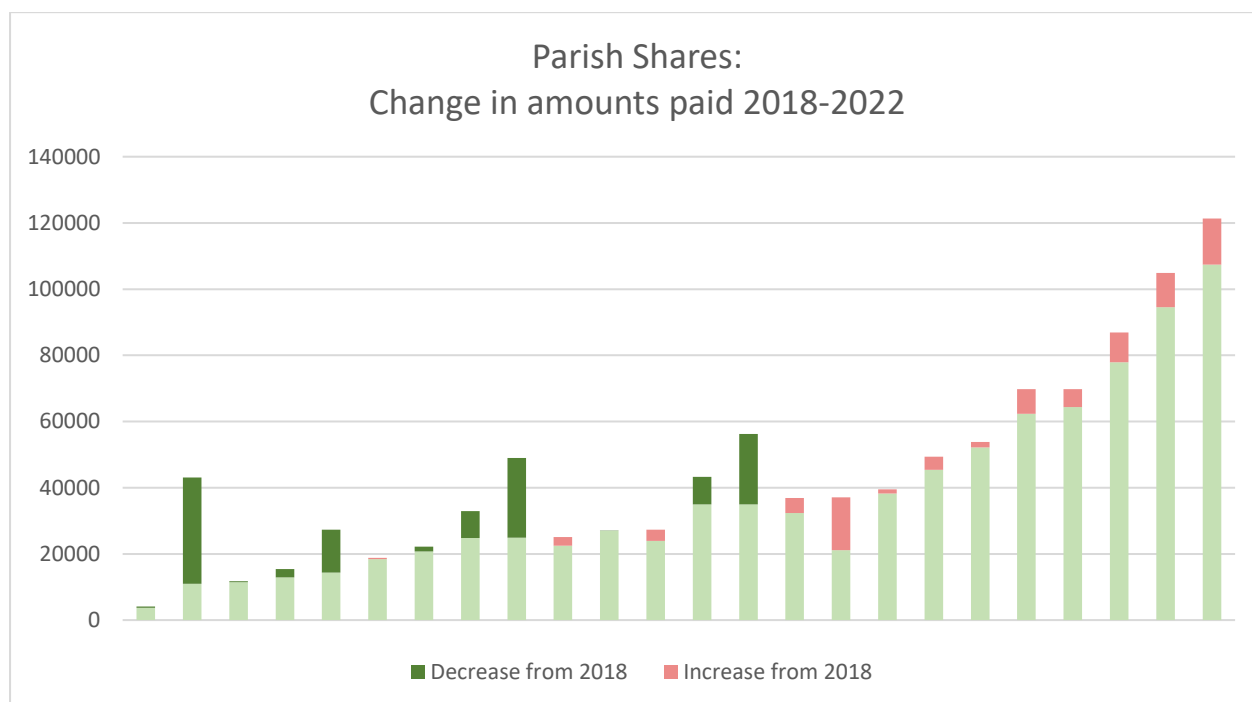


## Parish Share and Mutual Support



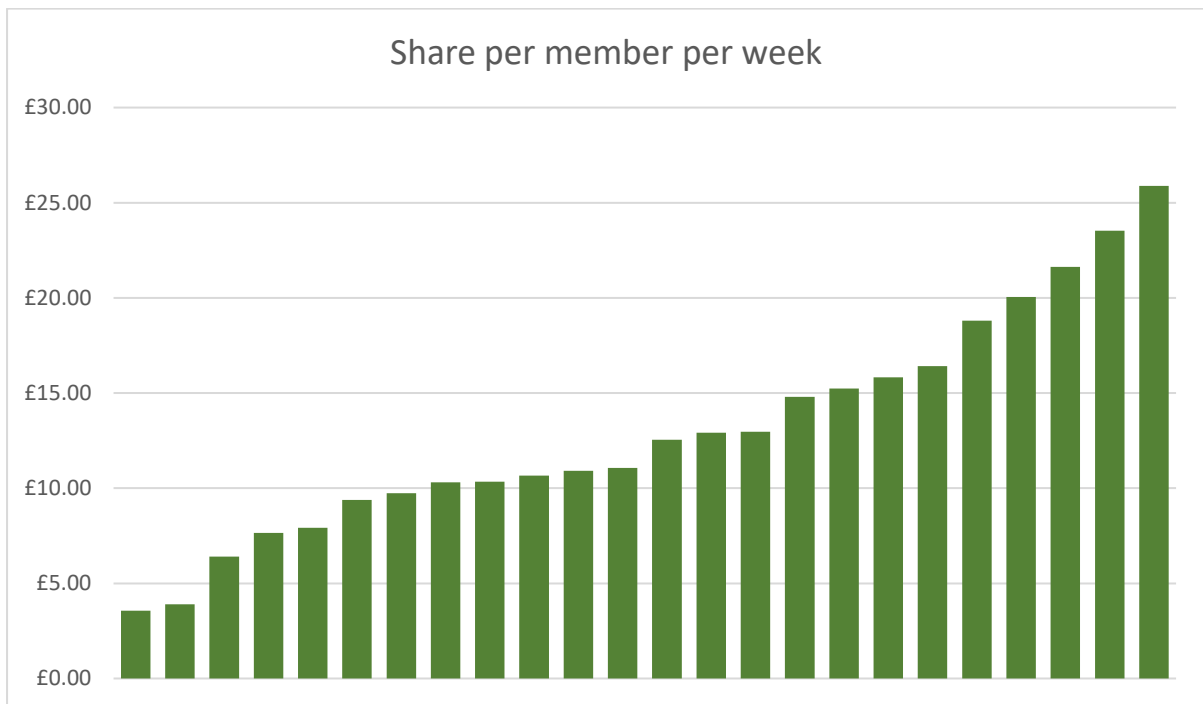
This chart shows the amounts paid by Parishes and the extent of any shortfall against the assessment.

The Deanery Share paid by Parishes in 2022 is £31,500 less than in 2018, which shows a significant reduction in real terms. However, the Parish Share paid by 13 Parishes increased over those years, and it decreased for 11 Parishes, as shown below:

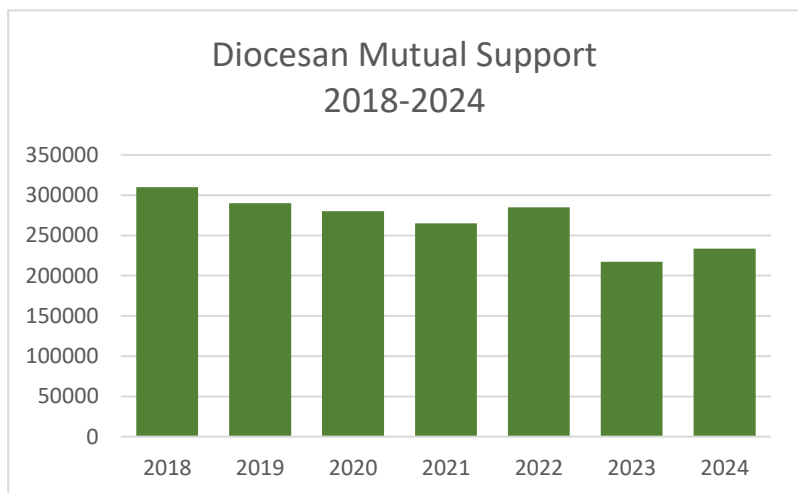


We now show the average amount paid by members of a Parish towards the Parish Share each week. This varies considerably, due to many factors within the Parish including the level of ministry provided (i.e. the Share amount), the number of members and the extent of Mutual Support given or received by the Parish. We have used the new (2024) calculation for the number of members. On this basis, the average contribution per member per week across the whole Deanery was £13.13 in 2022.





Finally, we show the extent of Mutual Support received from the Diocese in recent years and budgeted for 2024, and how that is shared between our Parishes. This chart shows that Diocesan support is reducing annually, due to Central Church's Transition Fund being phased out by 2025. The increase in 2022



reflects exceptional growth in Diocesan Investment Income. The reducing trend continued for 2023, but greater forecast income (and a revised allocation model) has forecast a welcome increase for 2024.

Investment Income, Low Income Community Funding and Parish Fee Income will continue to form the bulk of Diocesan Mutual Support in future; and although the new Share Scheme distributes support in a new way, and Pastoral Reorganisations are making Parishes less reliant on Mutual Support, this final chart shows the levels of Mutual Support received or contributed by Parishes in 2022.



**In conclusion**

Whilst a document such as this may have academic interest for some, it is designed for positive purposes.

Firstly, we wish to build confidence in the Church of England Deanery of Colchester; by far the largest faith community in the Borough, and arguably the most efficient and effective source of social capital. Our people are committed and contributing members, developing and maintaining Christian ministry across 24 Parishes with 30 Church buildings, with significant assets of all kinds.

Secondly, our intention is to develop our mutuality by an appreciation of shared challenges and the similarity of our situations; yet to recognise the individual uniqueness of the Parishes.

Thirdly, we wish to highlight the major messages such as areas of growth or decline, opportunities and challenges. Such information may encourage us to review our past, project forward and address stewardship of all types of resource in a new way or with renewed vigour as we continue our mission focus.

Finally, this report can provide a benchmark from which we can measure progress in the coming years, as we continue to gather missional momentum after Covid and serve the expanding and changing community around us.

*report ends*