

Vision and Strategy

Impact of funding



Reach: SMMI funding supports parishes serving one third of the population

Investing in direct support for parishes

Diocesan projects and programmes awarded funds to date in DIP and SDF directly support **over 10% of the total number of parishes**.

Enhancing ministry capacity in areas of larger population

Funded parishes typically serve **larger populations of around 10,000**, compared to the national average of **4,500**.

Enabling Christian presence to more of the population

Nearly **a quarter of England's population** live in parishes supported by national funding streams.

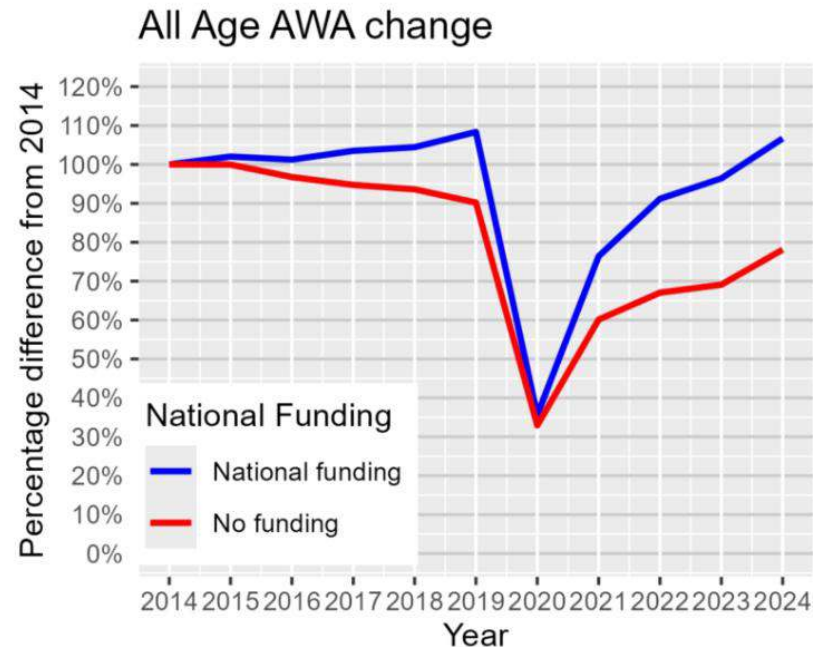
Supporting lower-income communities

LInC funding supports **2,000 parishes**, where approximately **14 million people** reside.

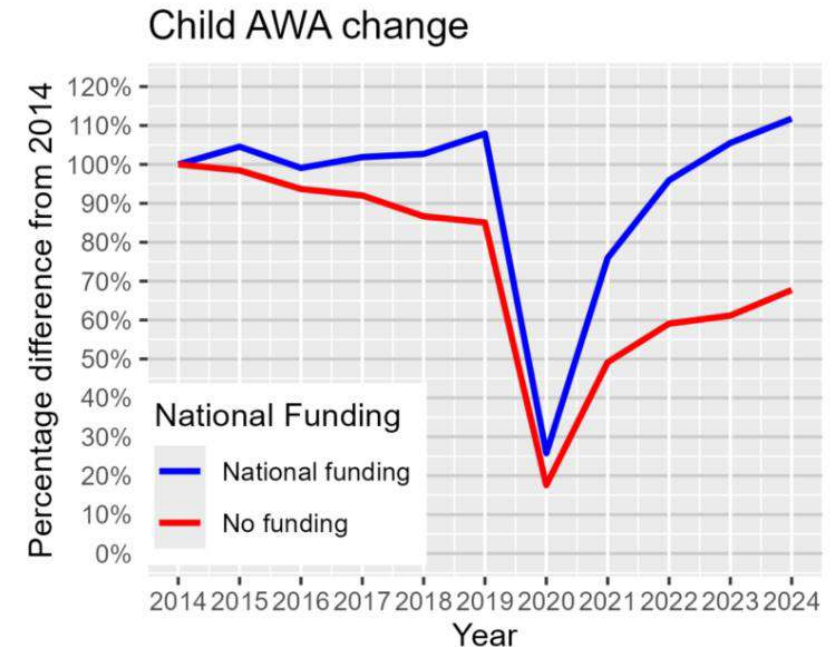
Helping the Church of England reach more people across the whole of England

While there is some overlap between these parishes, collectively they may represent **over a third of England's population**.

Impact on attendance: Nationally funded churches have seen AWA rise above 2014 levels. This represents a significant reversal in previous patterns of general decline.



Funded parishes have grown at a faster rate than unfunded parishes by 7.5% in 2023-24.



For child attendance the difference is 13% between funded and unfunded parishes

Funded parishes are 30% larger than unfunded parishes with a similar 2019 attendance and demographic profile.

Impact on Giving: Funded churches have grown in giving and parish share at a faster rate than other churches with similar demographics

Funded parishes have 43% more giving in 2023 than other parishes with the same demographics.

Funded parishes have 9% more giving than those with the same demographics and attendance.

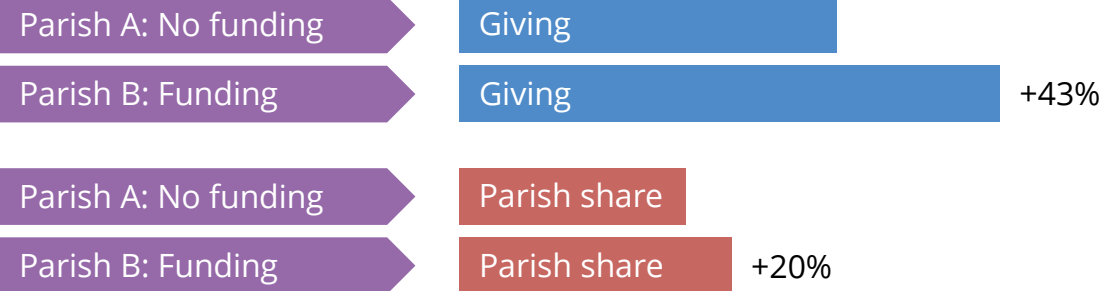
Funded parishes have 20% more parish share in 2023 than other parishes with the same demographics

Funded parishes show no difference in parish share to those with the same demographics and attendance.

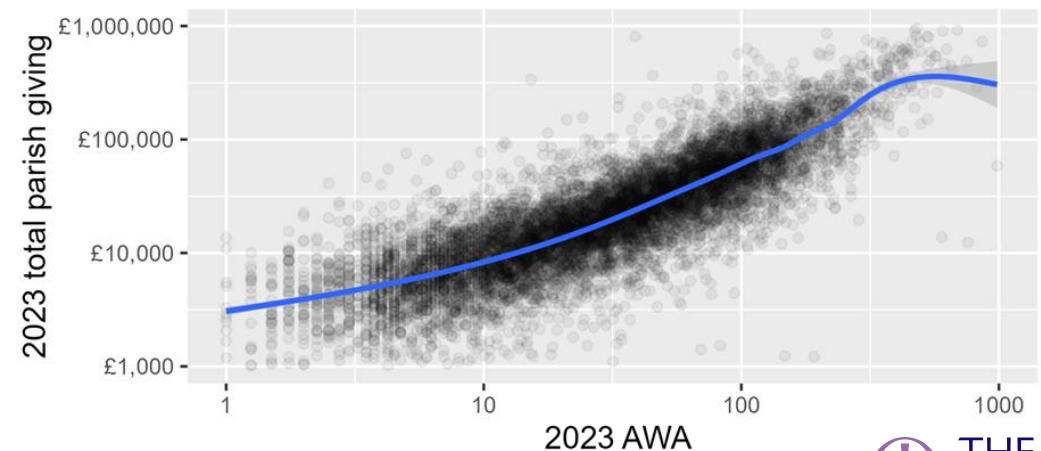
About £10m per year of additional giving could be attributed to the increased generosity of parishes in receipt of national funding.

GIVING AND PARISH SHARE

Assuming the same parish population, IMD, ethnicity, rurality, age, and faith profiles the differences in giving between funded and unfunded parishes



More attendance is linked with more giving





Dioceses with strategic funding programmes are growing faster and have higher average attendance.

Overall growth

- Growth across dioceses is uneven and the diocese that a parish is in is a significant factor for short, medium and long-term growth. ¹
- Parishes in those dioceses which have received funding for transformation programmes, or which aim to do so in 2025 have grown 7-8% more than those in other dioceses in 2019-24. ²
- Parishes in these dioceses have 14% higher average attendance (for similar local contexts) than those with smaller strategic funding proposals. ²
- A key theme from qualitative analysis of evaluations completed from projects concluded to date is that the clearer the focus the more likely investment is to be effective. ³
- Another key theme is the importance of the effectiveness of local missional leaders, and how team working and effective support for these leaders bears fruit. ³
- Dioceses that have invested in strategic projects focussing on rural areas have seen a catalytic effect on confidence in mission in these churches. ⁴

Sources: 1 Statistics for Mission and research conducted by 9dot research in 2024 commissioned by Vision and Strategy team, 2 Vision and Strategy multivariate regression analysis for SMMI board. Based on 2024 Statistics for Mission, 3 Thematic review of 28 independent evaluations of funded programmes commissioned by dioceses, 4. What's in our Hands: Rural Mission Learning review conducted by Brendan Research commissioned by Vision and Strategy Team



Identified outcomes for funded projects continue to increase

Outcomes reported in the 2023 review	Outcomes reported in the 2024 review	Outcomes reported in the 2025 review
4-5,000 new leaders	6,000 new leaders	6,000 new leaders
26-27,000 new participants	37,000 new participants	44,000 new participants*
900-1,000 new worshipping communities	1,300 new worshipping communities	1,400 new worshipping communities

- *Counting all new participants, then excluding those which came from other churches of any denomination where a figure or a % had been quoted by the project gives approximately 35,000 (compared to 29,000 in the 2023 review). For reference, [the 2021 Chote report](#) reported 530 new leaders and 11,000 new disciples from SDF.
- There were 93 projects reviewed in the 2023 update (all SDF projects), 90 reviewed in 2024 (all projects in the funded programme for which information was available at the time of the review) and 16 reviewed in 2025 (all projects completed with evaluations since the last review). For projects not reviewed in each year, last year's figure for that project is brought forward to give a cumulative total. This means that 2025 actuals would likely be higher if more of the ongoing projects were included in the review sample.