

I want to know...

how much a vicar costs?

Vicars are paid in an unusual way which leaves some people feeling unsure about how much it costs to fund a full time paid vicar.

The principle behind paying a vicar is not that they are rewarded for their service to the Church but that the cost of living is met to free them up for that service through the provision of a 'Stipend'. In addition a house is provided to ensure a vicar is able to live in a suitable location within the community they are called to serve.

The overall 'package' is intended to offer a standard of living roughly in line with that of a primary school head teacher (although it would require a slight increase in stipend to fully achieve this).

The main costs of a vicar in the Diocese of Gloucester for 2010, excluding training and support costs are:

Stipend	£22,400
NIC	£1,200
Pension contribution	£8,800
Grants (average)	£800
Council tax and water rates	£2,400
Other housing costs	£5,200
Total average cost	£40,800

'Other housing costs' is simply a share of the overall diocesan housing maintenance budget. Vicar's typically live in houses with four bedrooms and three receptions (one for an office) so renting or a mortgage on such a property would cost much more.

For parish share purposes the diocesan budget is split amongst deaneries and benefices based on clergy headcount, this reflects the above costs and also a share of the cost of curates, clergy training and support costs.