



DEANERY of WESTMINSTER
(ST MARGARET)

The COMMON FUND *in* CONTEXT

Some COMPARATIVE INFORMATION
for PARISHES *in the* DEANERY

MMX

Foreward

The Common Fund is the means by which the parishes of a diocese receive support for and contribute towards the cost of providing and supporting clergy and furthering the work of the Church. It is the principal means by which the stipends, pensions, housing and training of parish clergy are funded.

Additionally, the Common Fund enables those parishes that need financial support to receive it and provides the mechanism for those parishes that are able to give financial support to give it. In essence, the richer parishes provide the means necessary not just for themselves but also for the poorer parishes, so preserving and extending the universal mission of the Church of England.

This short report is a response to requests from parishes in the Deanery for more information, not about the Common Fund itself, but about how our contributions to the Common Fund compare to those in other parts of the Church.

The report compares certain financial statistics of our Deanery with the equivalent figures for the Diocese of London and for the Church of England as a whole. Comparisons with certain other dioceses are also given to provide further context.

Within our Deanery there exists considerable variation between parishes. Therefore, at the end of this report, financial statistics are also given for each of our parishes. This will enable each of us to see how our own parish compares (in certain respects) to other parts of the Church—at least in 2007.

We do not try to draw conclusions from the statistics presented here. Our aim is simply to present the available information as clearly as we can.

Most of the statistics quoted in this report relate to 2007. This is because 2007 is the most recent year for which statistics are available across the whole of the Church of England. At the end of this report, parish and Deanery figures are also given for 2010.

There will, of course, have been some changes since 2007. Nevertheless, we suspect that the relative positions of Deanery, Diocese and Church of England will not have altered very significantly.

We hope that you find this report helpful.



Jonathan Bell
Deanery Treasurer



Fr Philip Chester
Area Dean & Vicar of St Matthew's, Westminster

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STATISTICS *for* PARISHES *in the* DEANERY

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Notes on the data

Comparisons

Wherever comparisons are made between different areas, data is taken for the same period—usually 2007. Some information is also provided, at Deanery & parish level, for 2010 to show a more up to date position.

Rounding

Figures have been rounded throughout this report to make them easier to read.

Sources

Data has been sourced from the Research & Statistics Division of the Archbishops' Council, the Diocese of London, the Diocesan Boards of Finance (or equivalent) of the dioceses of the Church of England and the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

“Parishes”

The Chinese Congregation and the Grosvenor Chapel have been treated, for statistical purposes, as separate parishes. All figures relating to the Deanery exclude extra-parochial places (such as the Chapels Royal, the Wellington Barracks and college chapels). Such places are, anyway, funded separately from the Common Fund.

The Diocese of Sodor & Man

Statistics relating to Common Fund averages across the Church of England exclude the Diocese of Sodor & Man, for which financial information was not readily available.

The Dioceses of Birmingham, Chelmsford & Southwark

Comparative data has been shown in this report for these three dioceses. Southwark is most similar to London in terms of size, population density and number of clergy. Chelmsford is a neighbouring diocese, but different in many respects to London. Birmingham is a sizeable urban diocese but, again, different in important respects to London.

Data and the work of the Church

Statistics may be helpful but the work of our churches cannot be fully expressed solely in numbers. When we think about our contributions to the Common Fund - however useful or poor the data - there is no replacement for prayerful consideration of our own situations and that of the Church as a whole.

Further information

Research & Statistics Division of the Archbishops' Council

www.cofe.anglican.org/info/statistics

Charity Commission (for annual reports of Diocesan Boards of Finance and equivalent bodies)

www.charity-commission.gov.uk

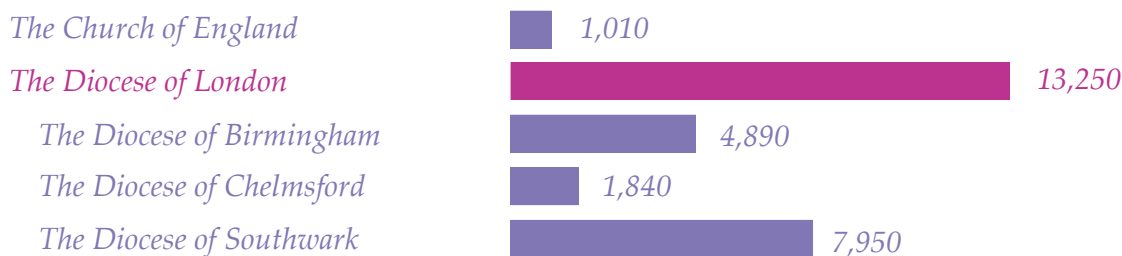
COMPARISONS
between
DEANERY, DIOCESE &
CHURCH

Some basic statistics

London is different from every other diocese within the Church of England in a number of important respects. These differences should be kept in mind when looking at financial data later on. These differences in fundamental characteristics of the Diocese of London explain to some degree differences in parish income, expenditure and Common Fund contributions, which are shown later.

The most important difference is population. The Diocese of London's population is three times that of the average diocese in the Church of England. It is by far the most densely populated diocese.

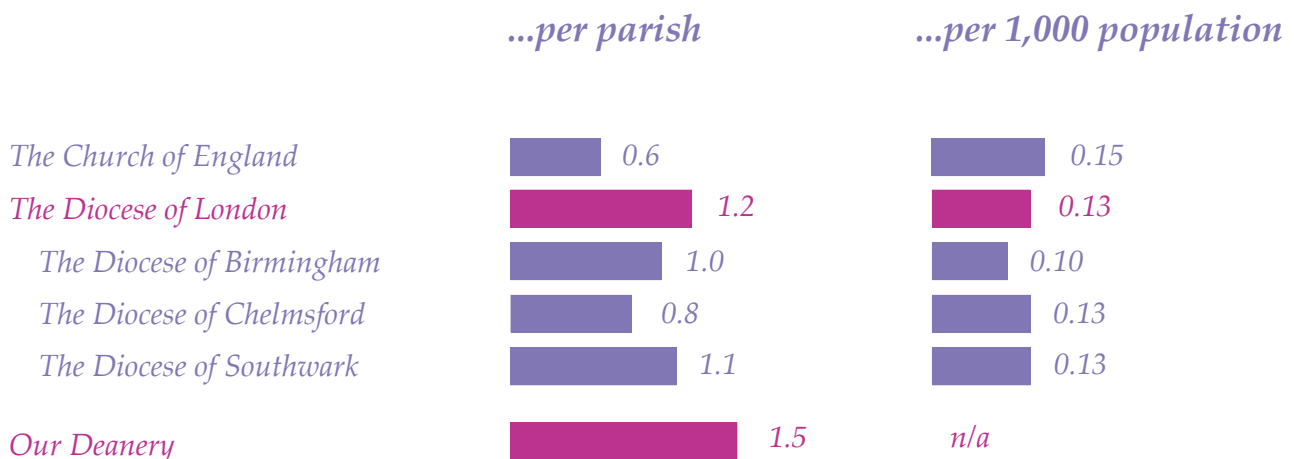
Residential population density (persons per square mile)



Owing to its large population the Diocese of London has the largest number of full-time stipendiary clergy of any diocese. It is one of only two dioceses (the other being Southwark) to have more full-stipendiary clergy than it has parishes, which is in part a result of its high population density.

Nevertheless, the ratio of full-time stipendiary clergy to population is, in London, similar to comparable dioceses and to the Church of England as a whole. Birmingham has relatively fewer clergy for its population.

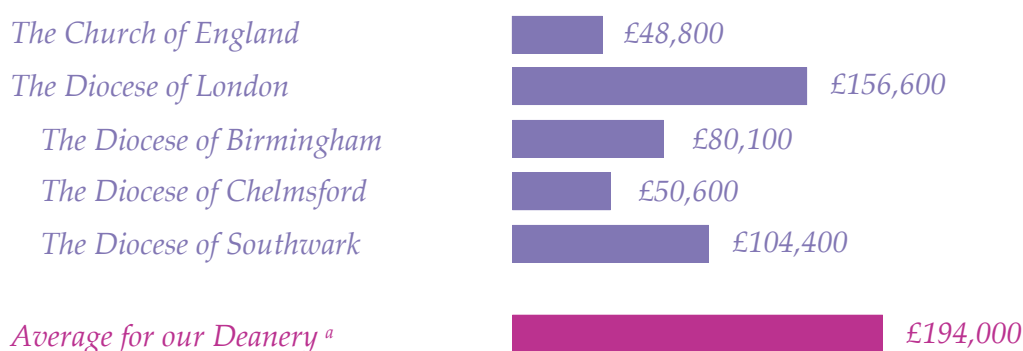
Average number of full-time stipendiary clergy...



Comparisons of parish income & expenditure

Average annual unrestricted recurring income received by parishes varies very considerably across the Church of England. It is by far the highest in the Diocese of London. In our Deanery, the average is higher still; in 2007 it was £194,000^a, about four times more than the average for the Church of England as a whole.

Average annual unrestricted recurring income received by parishes



Average annual recurring expenditure incurred directly by parishes also varies considerably, broadly in line with the variations seen in income. Busy urban parishes are likely—on average—to be spending (and receiving) more than rural parishes which are more likely to share clergy with neighbouring parishes in united benefice arrangements. Our Deanery has parishes which employ members of staff and professional choirs as well as being served by clergy and are significant social enterprises as well as being well-known and popular parish churches, some with a national profile.

Average annual recurring expenditure incurred directly by parishes



Note a—Excluding St Mary le Strand and St Paul Covent Garden for which data are not readily available.

Comparisons of Common Fund contributions

In 2007, the average contribution per parish in the Diocese of London was higher than in Birmingham & Chelmsford (both dioceses have rather fewer stipendiary clergy per parish) but lower than in Southwark. The average contribution per parish in the Deanery was similar to the average for the Diocese of London as a whole. There was, however, significant variation between parishes within the Deanery (see page 14)

Average Common Fund contributions per parish



The average contributions per parish vary so much partly because the provision of clergy per parish varies so significantly. Another way of looking at Common Fund contributions is to control for the number of full time stipendiary clergy provided. This gives a sense of “how much are parishes, on average, contributing towards the cost of their clergy?”. Again, there was considerable variation, from £29,000 per clergy member in Liverpool to £54,500 in Guildford.

Average Common Fund contribution per full-time stipendiary member of clergy



Note a—Excluding the Diocese of Sodor & Man.

Note b—30.5 Stipendiary parish clergy. Seventeen self-supporting ministers excluded from the calculation.

Comparisons of Common Fund contributions (cont'd)

Another way of looking at Common Fund contributions is to take into account the unrestricted recurring income which parishes receive. We might, after all, expect parishes which receive more to contribute more to their respective Common Funds.

Across the Church of England in 2007, Common Fund contributions totalled nearly half (48%) of all unrestricted recurring income received by parishes. This varied considerably between dioceses. In Bradford, Newcastle and Truro, the equivalent figure is 60% or more. London had the lowest proportion (27%), followed by Birmingham (39%), another dense urban diocese. The total for our Deanery was 23%.

Total common fund contributions as a percentage of total annual unrestricted recurring income received by parishes



In some dioceses, Common Fund contributions are determined in ways which include some consideration of church membership (whether electoral roll size or church attendance). Average Common Fund contributions per electoral roll member varied in 2007 from less than £200 in Hereford and Lincoln to more than £330 in Bradford, Bristol and Norwich.

Average Common Fund contributions per electoral roll member



Note a—Excluding the Diocese of Sodor & Man.

Note b—Excluding St Mary le Strand and St Paul Covent Garden for which data are not readily available.

Comparisons of Common Fund contributions (cont'd)

The amounts raised through Common Funds have consistently risen across the Church of England. Between 2005 and 2009, the average cumulative percentage increase for London has been 5.0%. In each of London, Birmingham, Chelmsford and Southwark, the total raised through the Common Fund has increased every year since 2005. The same is probably true of most dioceses in the Church of England.

Average annual cumulative percentage increase in total Common Fund contributions between 2005 and 2009



Comparisons of approaches to the Common Fund

Different dioceses use different methods and approaches to determine the amount which individual parishes are invited to contribute to their respective common funds. It's reasonably accurate to say that no two dioceses take precisely the same approach to this issue¹.

DIOCESE

APPROACH TAKEN¹

Diocese of London

Costs including Diocesan overheads allocated to parishes and contributions negotiated at deanery level.

Diocese of Birmingham

Potential to give: average Sunday attendance (average of past five years) multiplied by results of [personal] income questionnaire, plus fixed cost element.

Diocese of Chelmsford

Ministry cost adjusted by support grants plus central admin allocated on a membership basis adjusted for wealth factor.

Diocese of Southwark

Fairer Shares: Membership adjusted for personal incomes of church family in one of thirty bands, resulting in share requested entirely proportional to incomes across the whole diocese.

Other examples include the (at least partial) determination of contributions by:

- *clergy numbers or cost of clergy at parish level (Chester, Gloucester, Southwell & Nottingham)*
- *Electoral roll numbers, adjusted by a personal wealth factor (Chester, Derby, Exeter, Oxford)*
- *average Sunday attendance, modified by a personal wealth factor (Liverpool, Manchester, Norwich)*
- *parish income (Newcastle, Rochester, Sheffield, Truro)*

Virtually all dioceses use more or less complicated combinations of these and other factors.

Note 1—Description of “Approach taken” reproduced verbatim from a 2009 document deposited with Parliament: “Parish Share Systems by Diocese”, available online at www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2009/DEP2009-2959.doc

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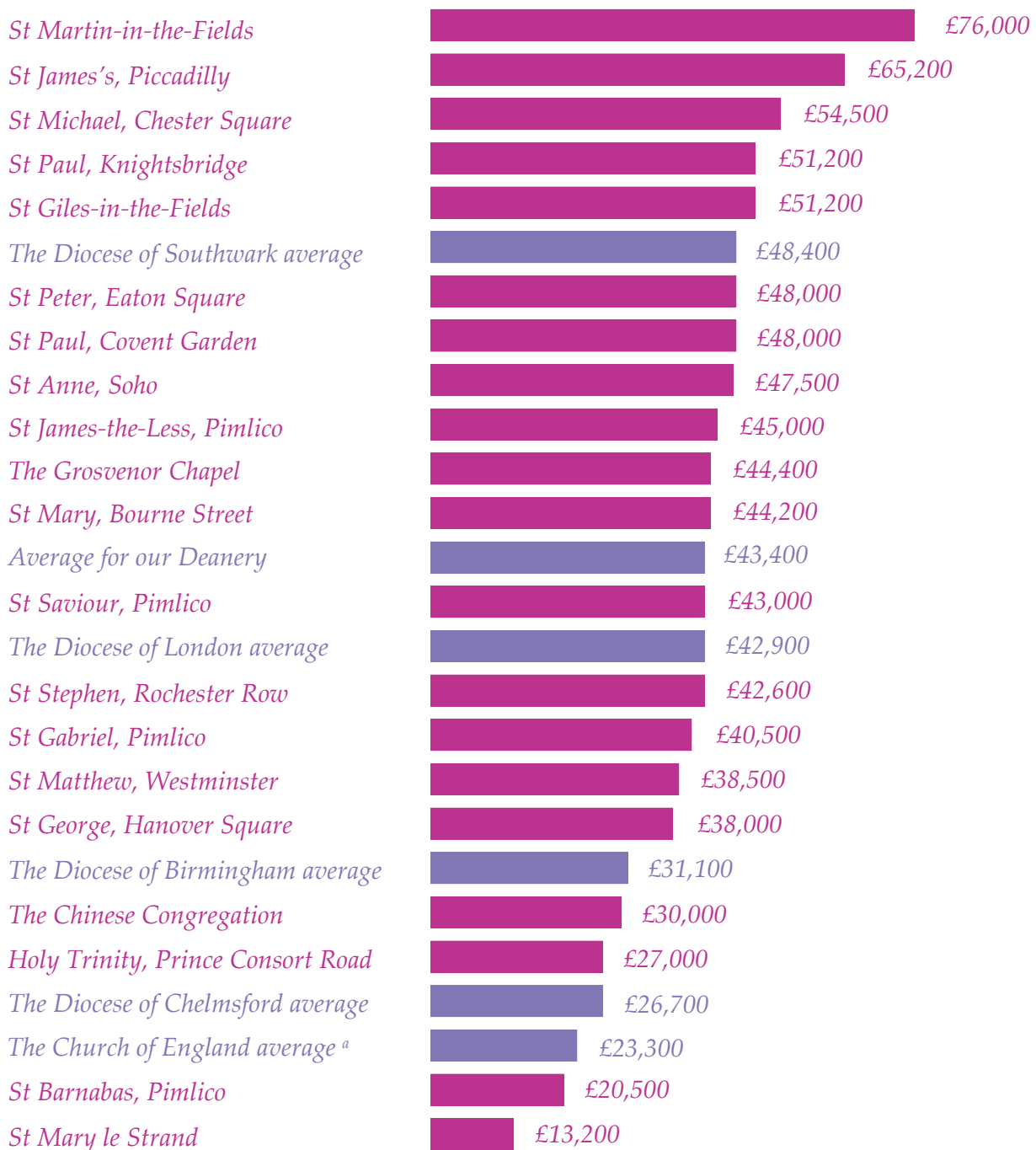
2007 STATISTICS *for*
PARISHES *in the* DEANERY

2007 Common Fund contributions per parish

2007 Common Fund contributions for each parish are shown below, together with averages for the Church of England as a whole, the Deanery, the Diocese of London and certain other dioceses.

Please see page 18 for a similar chart of Common Fund contributions for 2010.

2007 Common Fund contributions made by parishes in the Deanery, compared to averages for other areas of the Church of England.

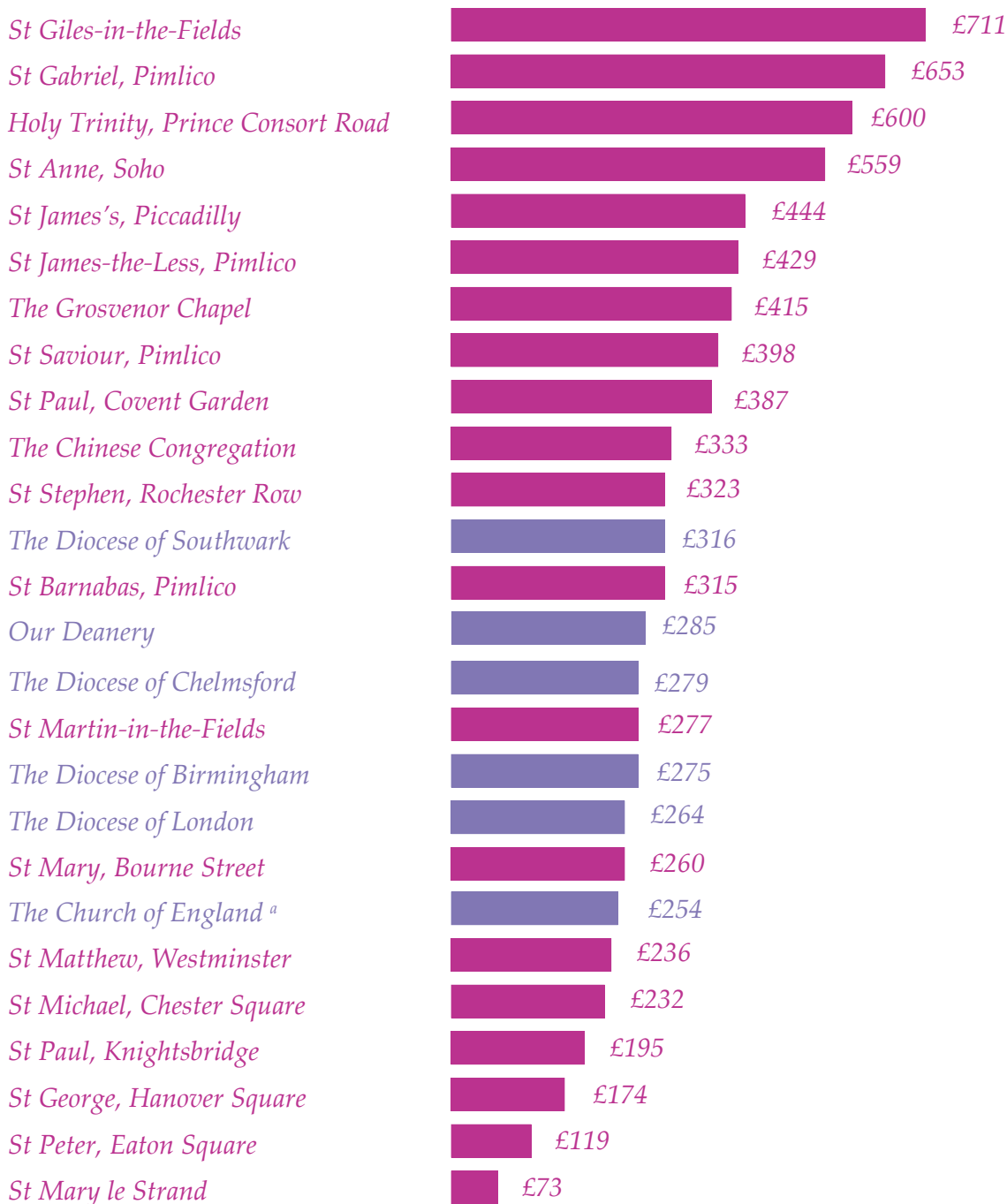


Note a— Excluding the Diocese of Sodor & Man.

2007 Common Fund contributions compared to size of electoral roll

Several dioceses base Common Fund contributions (at least partly) on the size of a parish's electoral roll, often adjusted for a personal wealth or income factor (see page 11).

2007 Common Fund contributions per electoral roll member, compared to totals for other areas of the Church of England.

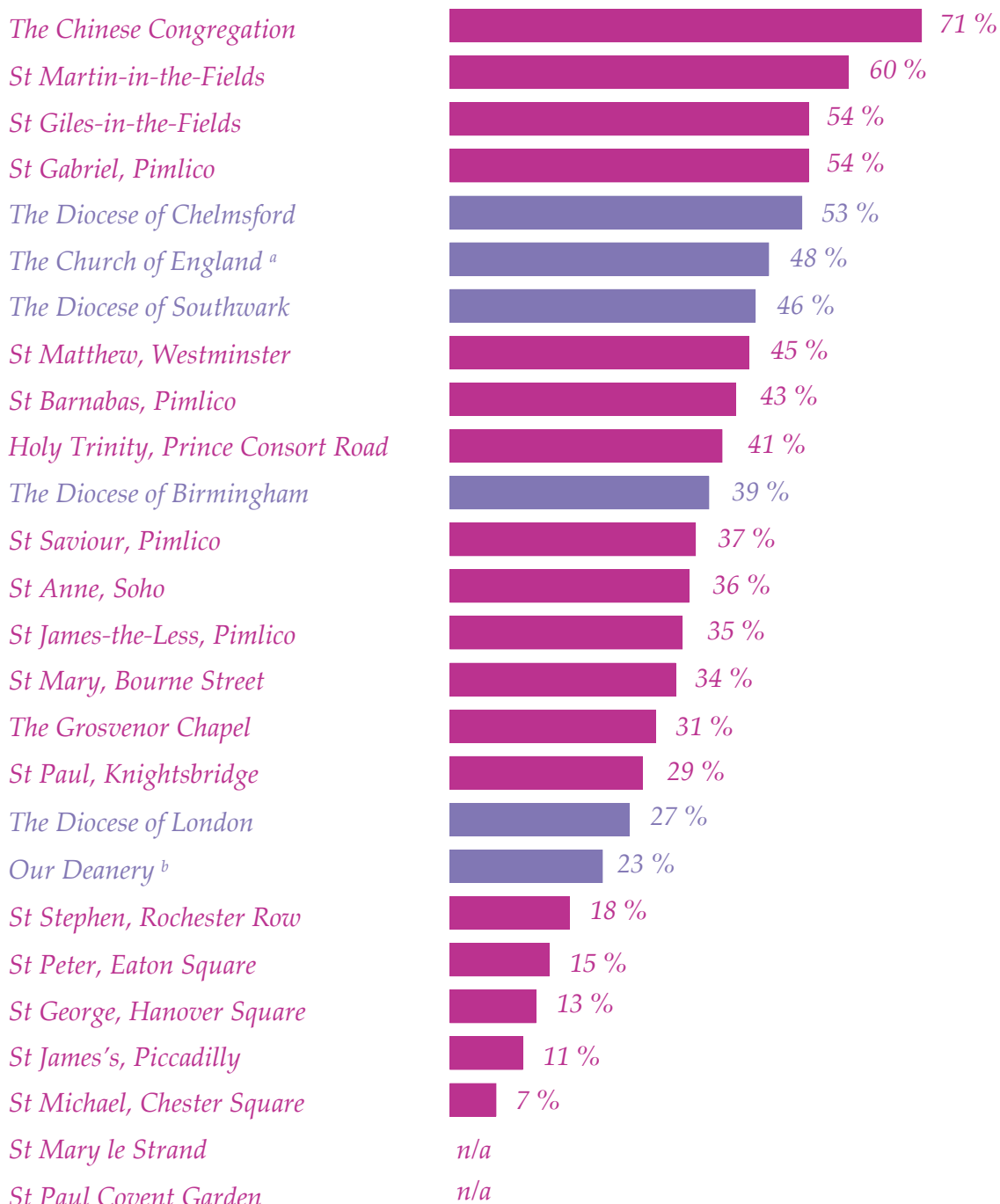


Note a—Excluding the Diocese of Sodor & Man.

2007 Common Fund contributions compared to income

2007 Common Fund contributions for each parish, as a percentage of unrestricted recurring income, are shown below, together with totals for the Church of England as a whole, the Deanery, the Diocese of London and certain other dioceses.

2007 Common Fund contributions as a percentage of unrestricted recurring income, compared to totals for other areas of the Church of England.



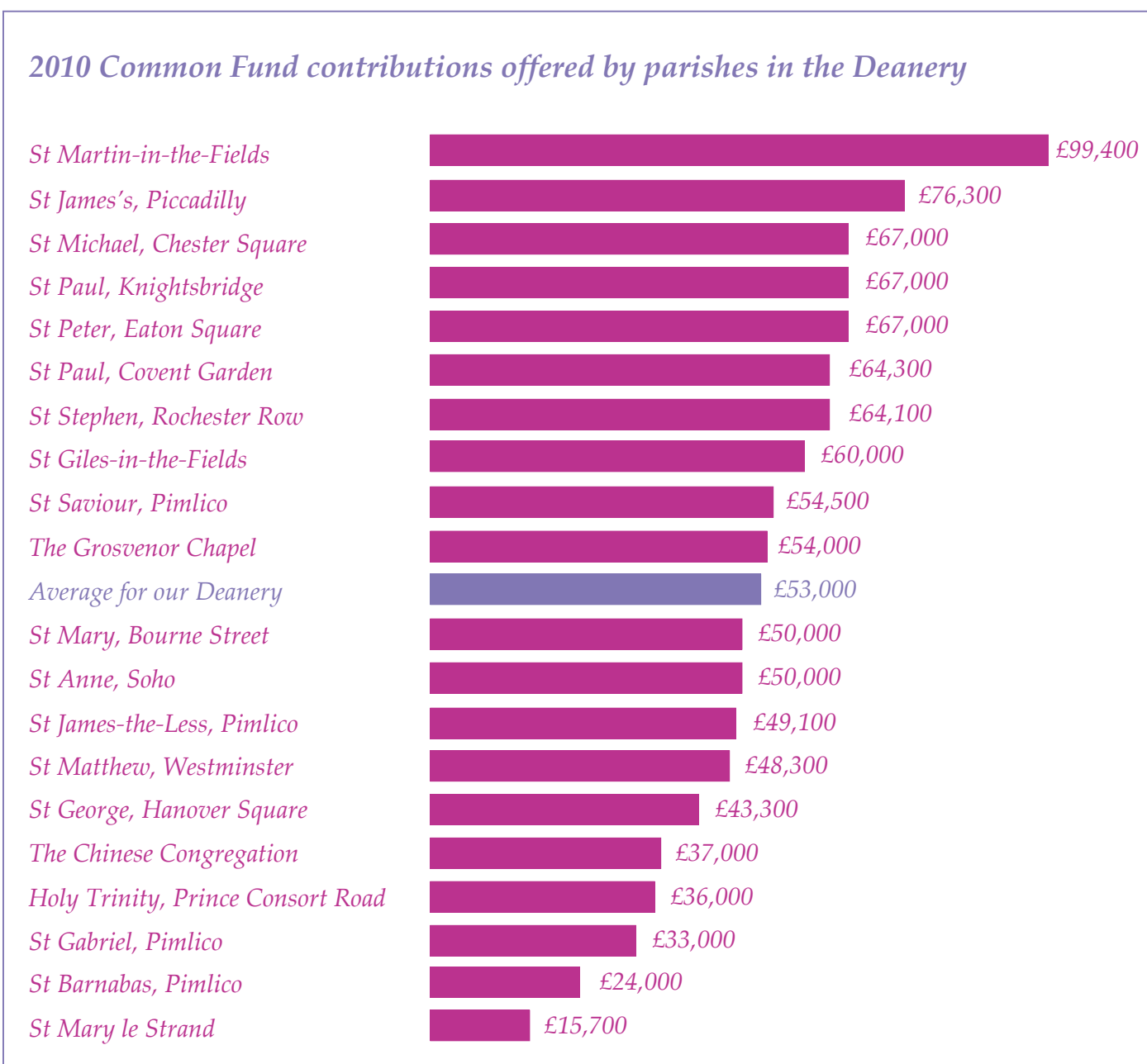
Note a—Excluding the Diocese of Sodor & Man. Note b—Excluding St Mary le Strand and St Paul Covent Garden

2010 STATISTICS *for*
PARISHES *in the* DEANERY

2010 Common Fund contributions per parish

2010 Common Fund contributions offered by each parish are shown below, together with the average for the Deanery. Comparative information for the Diocese, other dioceses and the Church of England as a whole is not yet readily available.

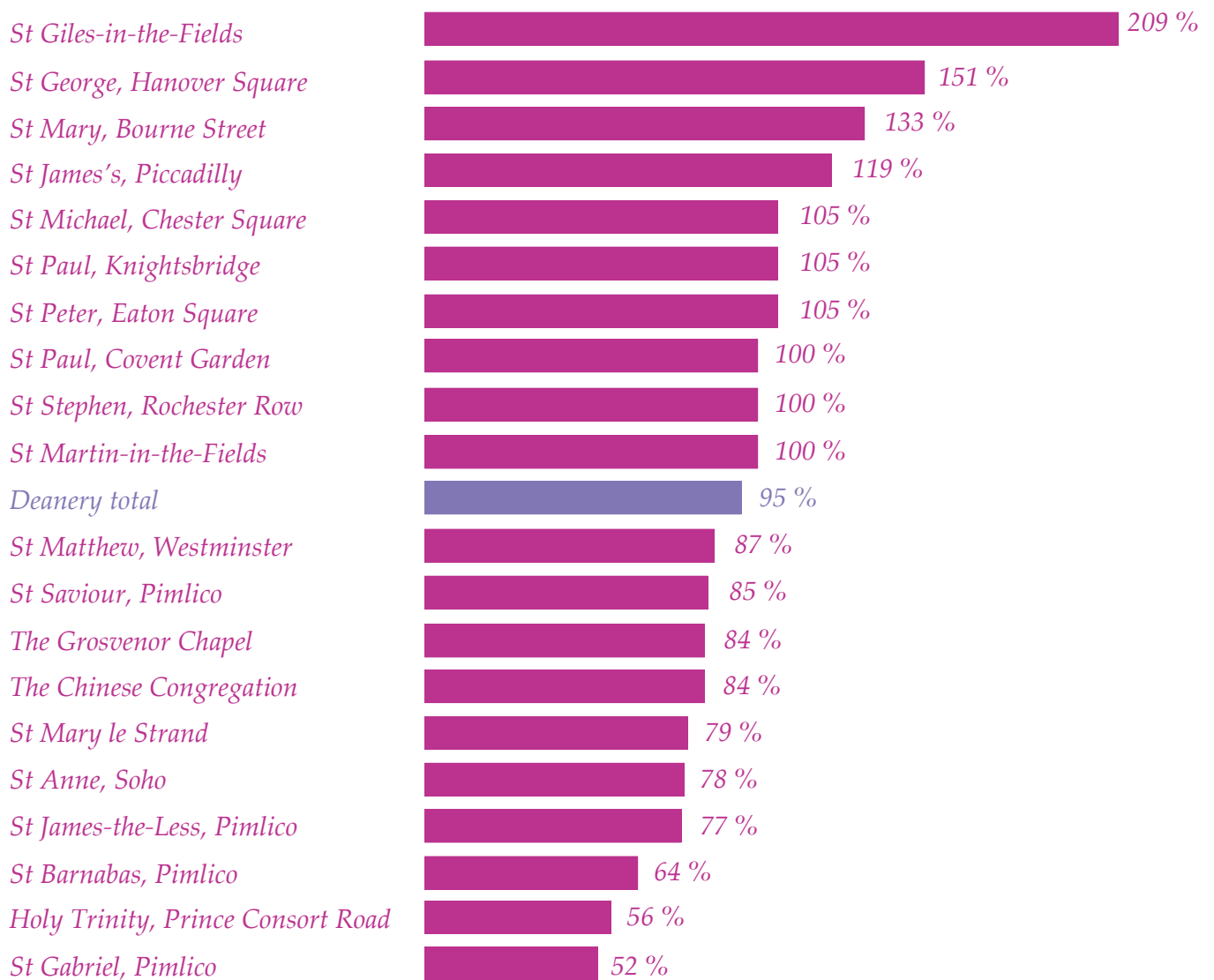
Please see page 14 for a similar chart of Common Fund contributions for 2007, together with comparative contributions from other areas of the Church of England.



2010 Common Fund contributions compared to standard costs

The Diocese of London allocates the cost of direct parish ministry and certain central overheads to each parish to get a sense of the “standard cost” of each parish. This varies between parishes depending on their numbers of stipendiary clergy, their housing provision and other factors. Although it cannot be entirely accurate it gives a reasonable indication of the costs to the Common Fund of providing Church of England presence in the parish.

2010 Common Fund contributions made by parishes in the Deanery, as a percentage of standard costs calculated by the Diocese for each parish



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This report is available online:

www.westminsterstmargaret.org/common-fund.html

*This report was prepared & published at no cost to the
Deanery or its parishes.*



DEANERY of WESTMINSTER (ST MARGARET)

WWW.WESTMINSTERSTMARGARET.ORG