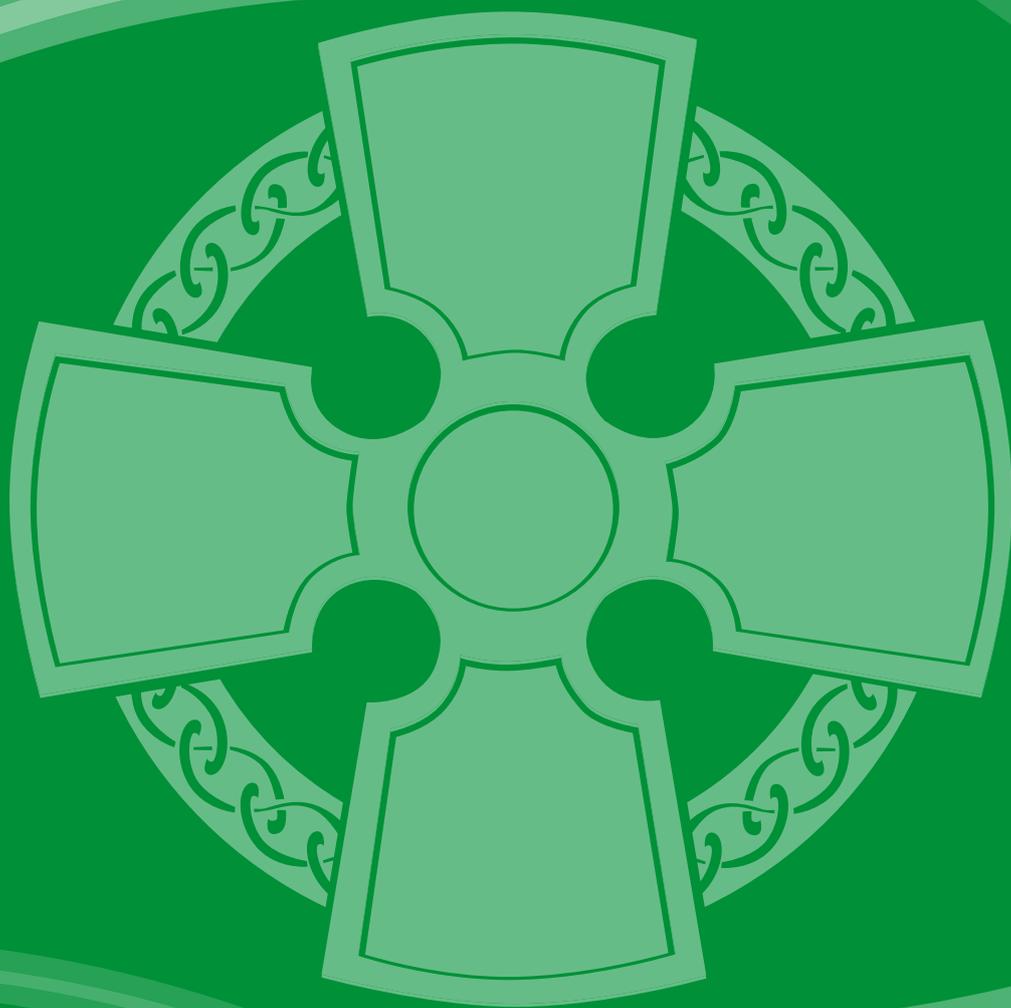


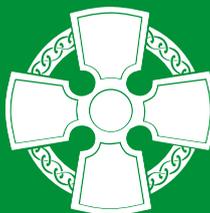
The Church in Wales

Membership and Finances

2012



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THE CHURCH
IN WALES

Welcome to the Church in Wales Membership and Finances report for 2012.

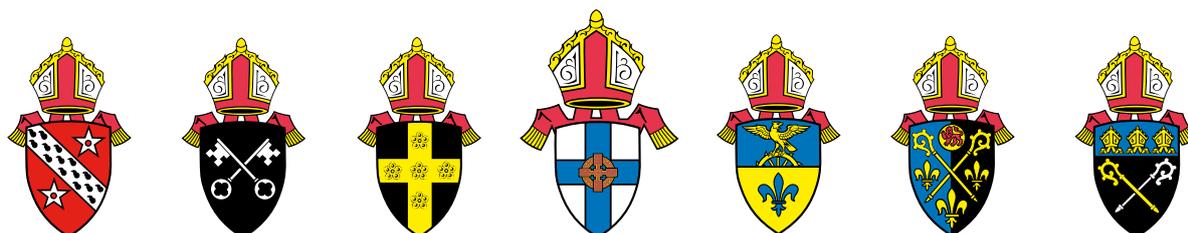
We are grateful to clergy and parish officers for providing the figures contained in this report via the annual parish return. Because of the efforts of parishes across Wales, we are able to produce a provincial report for the previous year's figures in time for the September Governing Body meeting based on a 92% return.

But first, a health warning. Statistics alone cannot provide a comprehensive picture of church life in Wales. It must always be borne in mind that these are provincial total figures, which do not highlight local or diocesan variations. It is also not possible to include in this report the many positive stories about the Church's work in communities across Wales, nor measure the impact of the Church's ministry in people's lives.

However, these figures do provide a detailed set of statistics about levels of participation in church life. Dioceses are able to access a complete set of statistics for every parish, deanery and archdeaconry. This information is of crucial importance in helping dioceses and provincial bodies to plan and set priorities for the future, in addition to providing information at a local level to enable Archdeacons and diocesan officers to target assistance to parishes and deaneries. As dioceses look to review the way in which resources are structured and deployed, these figures are more important than ever.

This document plays a key role also in informing Governing Body debates – an indication of the state of the Church to be taken into account when making significant decisions about the Church's future. For this reason it is important for Governing Body members to debate the statistics when they are disappointing as well as when the figures are reassuring.

This year, we are presenting new information about the Church's work with young people and families. This data was collected using the Membership return for the first time in 2011, and we now have comparative figures for 2012 in this important area.



Membership

Table 1: Participation in Parish Life for 2012 and 2011

		2012	2011	Difference	+/- %
Communicants	Easter	56,063	60,924	-4,861	-8%
	Pentecost	32,458	31,723	735	2%
	Christmas	54,922	58,959	-4,037	-7%
	Trinity III	30,797	31,350	-553	-2%
Average Attendance - over 18	Sundays	32,171	33,783	-1,612	-5%
	Weekdays only	3,982	4,379	-397	-9%
Average Attendance - under 18		6,719	6,250	469	8%
Electoral Roll		54,950	56,396	-1,446	-3%
Baptisms		7,540	7,644	-104	-1%
Confirmations		1,486	1,329	157	12%
Weddings		3,453	3,313	140	4%
Funerals		6,564	6,838	-274	-4%

The concept of “Membership” in the Church in Wales has always proved difficult to define, with claims to the Cure of Souls within each parish sitting more easily with the Anglican tradition in Wales than membership lists. The number of Easter communicants has traditionally been the high point of attendance figures, with average Sunday attendance providing a more reliable guide to usual attendance. Electoral Roll figures have also been used to demonstrate the number in each community with a demonstrable connection to the work of the parish.

The Picture for 2012 compared with 2011

Table 1 sets out a comparison of key attendance figures for 2012 and 2011. Certain year-on-year trends continue:

- Seasonal fluctuations in the number of communicants at key festivals;
- A decline in the average attendance and Electoral Roll.

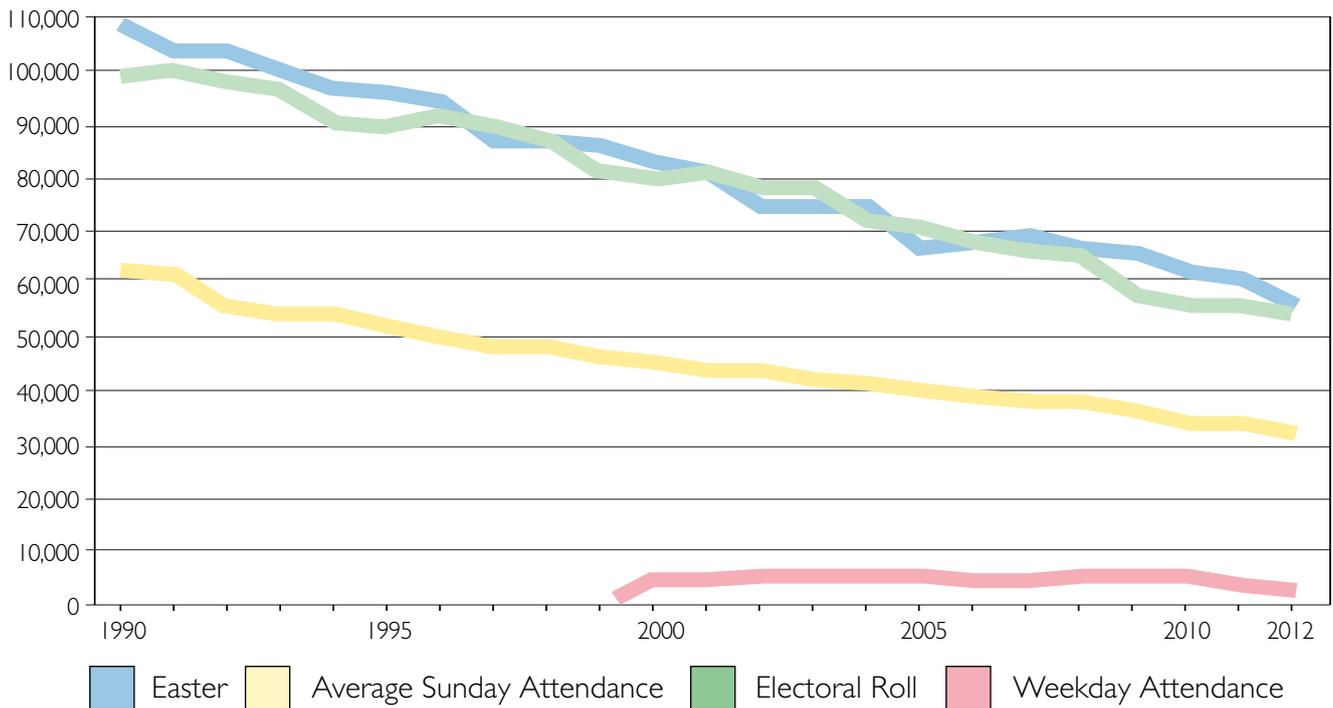
Communicant figures for Easter and Christmas are disappointing, although it should be borne in mind that the Christmas figure rose by 27% between 2010 and 2011 as a result of very different weather conditions. The 2012 Christmas figure is still nearly 20% higher than in 2010.

However, the other two communicants figures are more heartening, particularly as they are more representative of regular worship: the number of communicants at Trinity III has fallen only slightly, and there was a rise in the Pentecost figure.

Of course, the most representative figures for attendance are those for average attendance for Sundays and weekdays, and in this area decline continues. For the second successive year weekday attendance has fallen sharply. However, this is also the second year in which the new Membership return has collected information on “Other Acts of Worship”, and it is quite possible that some worshippers who would, pre-2011, have been recorded as “weekday attenders” now fall into the new category (see Figure 2 for more detail).

This is also the second year in a row in which the figure for Average Attendance by under 18s has risen significantly. Again, it may be that the introduction in 2011 of specific questions about average attendance by different age groups might have encouraged clergy to include groups of young people which had not been included in previous returns. On the other hand, in combination with a rise in the number of confirmations these figures are very positive. Further details about the Church’s involvement with young people and families is set out in Figure 2.

Figure 1: Attendance and Electoral Roll



Long-term Trends: 1990 to 2012

Membership and Finance statistics are held from 1990, and Figure 1 provides an illustration of the change in four key parameters during this period (although weekday attendance figures have been collected only since 2000). This chart was first produced in last year’s report, and we feel it is worth drawing to members’ attention again this year.

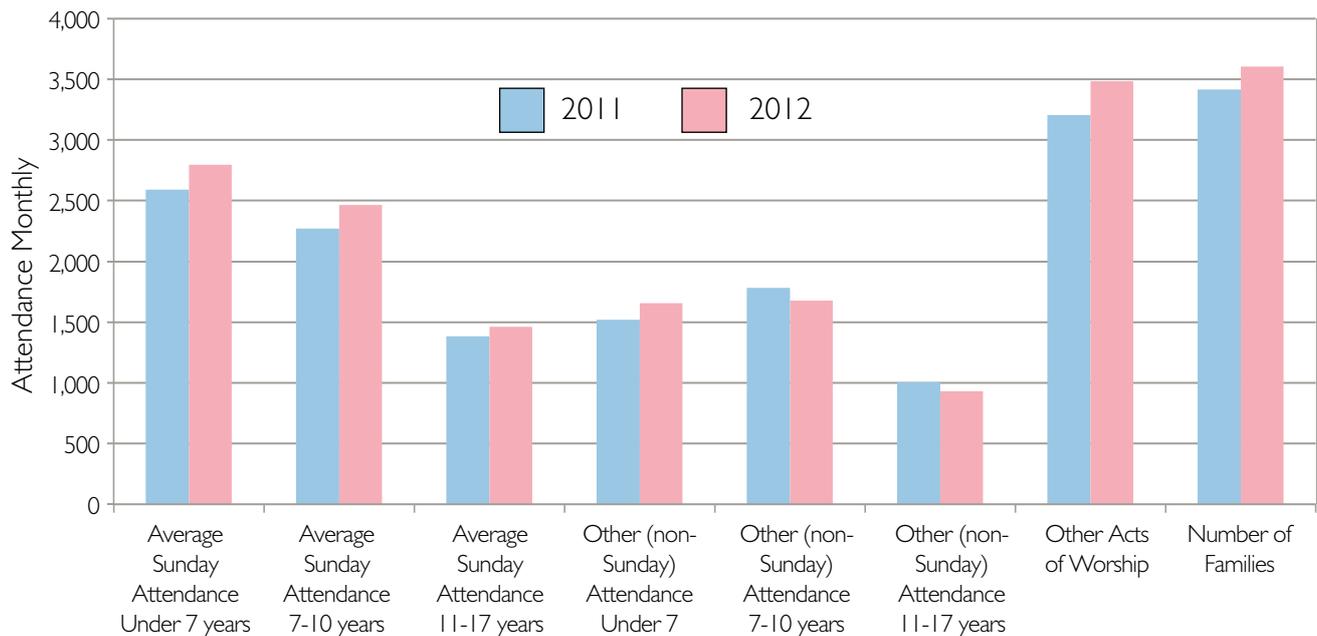
In September 2010 the figures contained in the Membership and Finance report prompted a Governing Body debate on the future of the Church, and a motion calling on the Bench of Bishops and Standing Committee to respond to the situation the figures described. The result of that motion was the commissioning of the Church in Wales Review, which reported in the summer of 2012. Dioceses and Provincial bodies are now in the process of considering and taking forward the various recommendations of the Review, assisted by the Implementation Group appointed by the Standing Committee. In particular, the Church is considering new ways of providing ministry in teams to new areas of oversight – Ministry Areas – and providing training for new types of ministers. Although primarily a local, diocesan initiative, a provincial framework for Ministry Areas and Ministry Area

Teams will be debated at the September 2013 Governing Body meeting.

Long-term trends in attendance and parish finance provide important context for the Church in Wales as it considers such far-reaching new developments. The Church in Wales Review was born out of a recognition by Governing Body members that “we cannot go on doing the same thing in the same way”. These long-term trend figures bear out that statement. As noted in last year’s report: Easter communicants, average Sunday attendance and Electoral Roll membership have fallen by close to 50% in the last twenty years, and the “high point” figure for each year (Easter communicants) was lower in 2011 than the average Sunday attendance figure in 1990. This is the context within which decisions about the future of the Church are being made, and the Church must be aware of that context.

However it should also be remembered that the four parameters used here are the traditional measures of the level of involvement in Church activities. Statistics gathered over the last two years suggest that there is growth in the Church’s work with young people and families, and in non-traditional forms of activity with people of all ages.

Figure 2: Other Acts of Worship and Work with Young People



Areas of New Growth

Since 2011 the Membership return has gathered information about the level of weekly participation in worship by young people and families, and estimates for average monthly attendance of people of all ages at Other Acts of Worship. Figure 2 sets out the figures for 2011 and 2012 in each category.

These figures provide additional illustration for two years' growth in Sunday attendance by young people (all age categories), and variations in attendance of non-Sunday worship among different age categories over the same period. There is also clear growth (from 3,416 to 3,606) in the number of families involved in parish life. (These positive figures are reinforced by the 12% increase in the number of confirmations between 2011 and 2012.)

Similarly this is the second year in which we have been collecting average monthly attendance at "Other Acts of Worship". As explained briefly in last year's report, this is a deliberately broad category intended to catch interesting developments in the way in which parishes approach worship, particularly those intended to reach those in the community unused to traditional forms of worship. These are sometimes called Fresh Expressions, but may also be developments of traditional activities.

The number of monthly attendees at such events in 2012 was 3,486, up from 3,205 in 2011, and we received reports from nearly 150 parishes of a wide range of activities including:

- Cafe style worship, and pub Bible study;
- Healing services;
- Pet and other animal blessing services;
- Messy church;
- Discipleship groups;
- Taize-inspired services;
- Quiet times and meditations;
- Singing groups and music projects for children;
- Celtic services and Benedictine compline.

It may be that, with both these new areas of the membership questionnaire, asking the question has encouraged parishes to include in the statistics groups which had not been included previously. It may also be the case that, by mentioning these areas of Church life, some parishes have been encouraged to try new things and to bring more young people into the Church. Whatever the explanation, these figures provide evidence of good things happening in the Church in Wales, and a counterbalance to some of the less positive figures in more traditional fields.

Finances

Table 2: Provincial Summary of Parish Finances for 2012 and 2011

INCOME (£000s)	2012	2011	EXPENDITURE (£000s)	2012	2011
Planned Giving	11,872	11,940	Parish Share	17,366	16,949
Loose Collections	2,799	2,735	Clerics' Expenses	1,397	1,422
Donations	3,200	2,994	Other Ministry Support	327	379
For Mission	596	686	Maintenance of Services	1,334	1,250
Tax Refunds	2,782	2,915	General Parish Expenses	2,020	2,262
Legacy Gifts Received	3,107	1,432	Maintenance of Churches	5,722	5,450
Grants	3,864	4,970	Maintenance of Property	2,199	2,017
Money Raising	4,982	4,964	Exceptional Property Expenditure	5,569	5,611
Fees	1,930	1,766	Parish Grants	510	497
Investments	1,549	1,617	Home/World Grants	1,104	1,151
Other Incoming Resources	4,751	3,553	Capital Payments	1,941	2,993
			Cost of Money Raising	654	653
TOTAL INCOME	41,432	39,572	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	40,143	40,634

Table 2 provides a comparison of parish income and expenditure for 2012 and 2011. The good news is that, after three years in which total parish income has fallen short of total parish expenditure by circa £1 million each year, income exceeded expenditure by some £1.3 million in 2012.

These are, of course, provincial totals, and care must be taken not to draw conclusions from them about the financial health of individual parishes. However, these are certainly more positive figures than in recent years. As ever, there are more interesting lessons to be learned from the detail behind those headline figures.

First, planned giving and tax refunds both fell slightly on 2011 levels, and this is likely to be an indication of the effect of falling numbers generally combined with 2012 being the first full year since the withdrawal of Gift Aid Transitional Relief on 31 March 2011. There is no doubt however that members are continuing to give generously during a period of continuing economic hardship for many communities in Wales, and this is illustrated in Figure 3 (overleaf). Expenditure on Parish Share has risen slightly, but other costs related to ministry have fallen.

By contrast, expenditure on churches and other property has risen more generally, despite the fall in grant income (see below).

Two categories of income which may provide an impression of the financial support given to parishes by the local community, and not merely church members, have registered increases in 2012; Loose Collections and Donations.

There are also categories of income which may be considered "one offs" for individual parishes, in which income is not usually repeated year on year. One of these is Grants, from which income fell by some 22% between 2011 and 2012, following a 19% fall from 2010 to 2011. This may be indicative of a reduction in the amount of grant funding available via CADW in recent years. It may also suggest that parishes are less confident about taking on major projects in the current economic/funding climate. However, parishes may wish to note that the Heritage Lottery Fund remains well-funded, and that they should not be discouraged from making applications for grants from this source. If you are thinking of embarking upon a property-related project, do contact the Provincial Property department for advice at an early stage.

Another category of “one off” income is Legacy Gifts, from which parishes received a total of some £3.1 million in 2012 (an increase of 117% on the 2011 figure). By its nature Legacy Gift income fluctuates from one year to another. It is also recognised that this is a subject on which it can be difficult to talk to church members.

For this reason the Provincial Stewardship Executive has worked with Provincial staff to produce a resources pack for parishes, which includes practical advice on how legacies should be made and preaching notes. Legacy packs are available from your diocesan office and from Church in Wales Publications.

Figure 3: Weekly Direct Giving per Sunday Attender



Direct Giving

Although total direct giving fell slightly between 2011 and 2012, a larger fall proportionately in the average number of Sunday attenders meant that Weekly Direct Giving per Sunday attender increased by just under 5% to £8.73 in 2012. The figure of £8.73 represents 2.8% of the average Welsh gross weekly adult income (the figure for 2011 was 2.6%).

Once again, it is a story of fewer members giving sacrificially to meet parish costs, and the continued generosity and commitment of members must be recognised.

One of the conclusions of the Governing Body debate in September 2010 on the Membership and Finance figures, and which helped inform

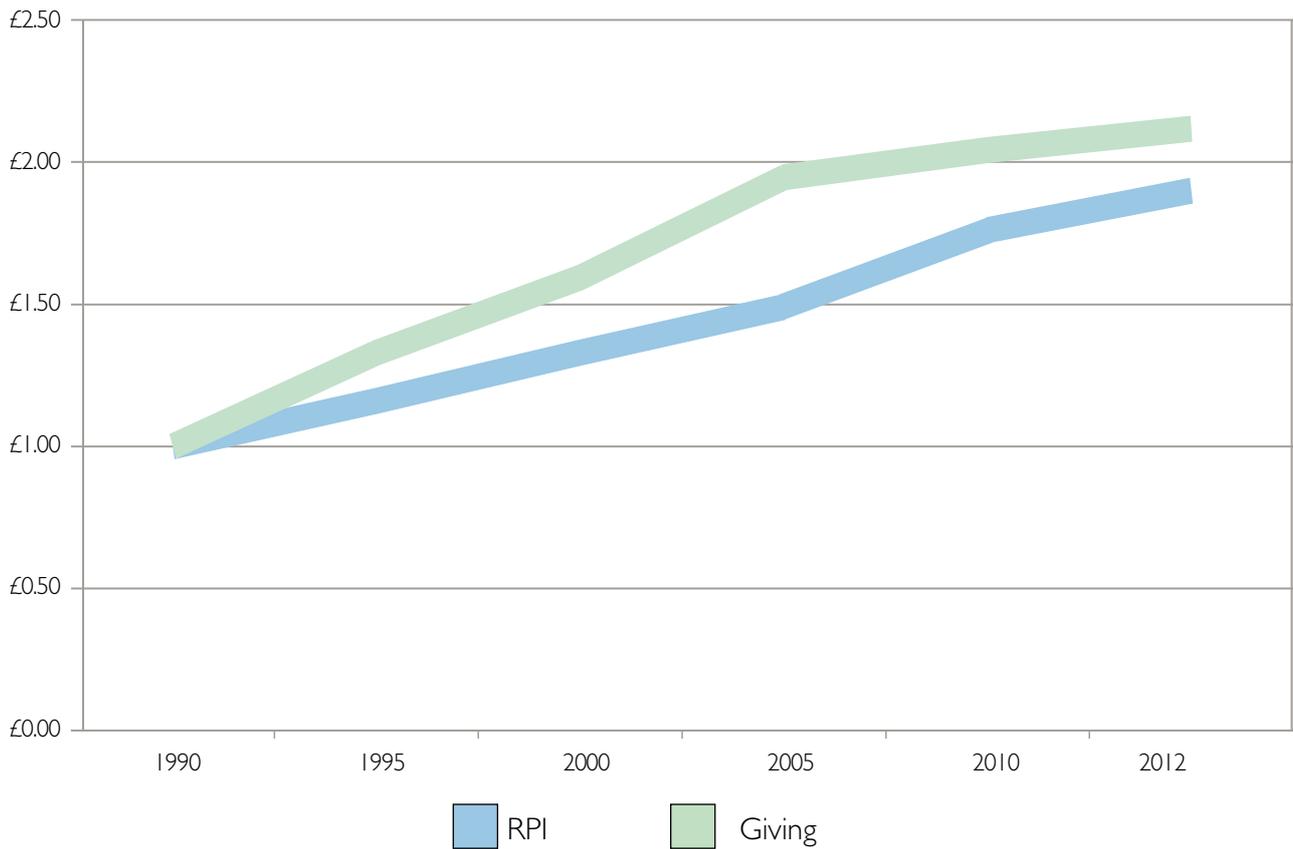
the work of the Review Group, was that the Church in Wales is extremely fortunate in the resources at its disposal. This report, and in particular Figure 5, demonstrates that Church members and the Representative Body provide considerable financial resources each year to fund the work of the Church. To these financial resources we can add human resources (over 600 clergy, and thousands of lay volunteers) and our built heritage (nearly 1,400 church buildings, each at the heart of the community).

Our current difficulties may lie not with the level of resources we have, but rather in how they are organised and deployed. This is the message which was heard by the Church in Wales Review Group in their travels around the Province.

This generosity of church members is illustrated further in Figure 4. Giving per average Sunday attender has increased by 111% since 1990

compared with an RPI increase of 90%. Over that period total direct giving has increased from £6,928,000 in 1990 to £14,149,000 in 2012.

**Figure 4: Changes in Direct Giving Compared with the Retail Price Index
(Based on a £1 Donation in 1990)**



How is the Church in Wales Funded?

Parishes play a major – and ever increasing – role in helping to meet the costs of running the Church in Wales. However, it is perhaps worth providing further explanation of how the parishes' contribution fits into the broader provincial picture. Figure 5 (below) is a diagrammatic representation of the way in which the Church in Wales is funded. Dioceses are responsible for meeting the cost of clergy stipends, and receive funds from both the parishes (via Parish Share) and Representative Body (via the Block Grant) for this purpose.

However, this is not the only area of expenditure, and the diagram illustrates the contribution made by all three groups to funding different parts of the Church's activities.

The main component in the Representative Body's "Other Support for Ministry" is the cost of the past-service element of the Clergy Pension Scheme. "Other Financial Support" by parishes includes other support for ministry (e.g. clergy expenses, cost of services) not included in parish share.

Figure 5: How the Church in Wales is Funded 2012

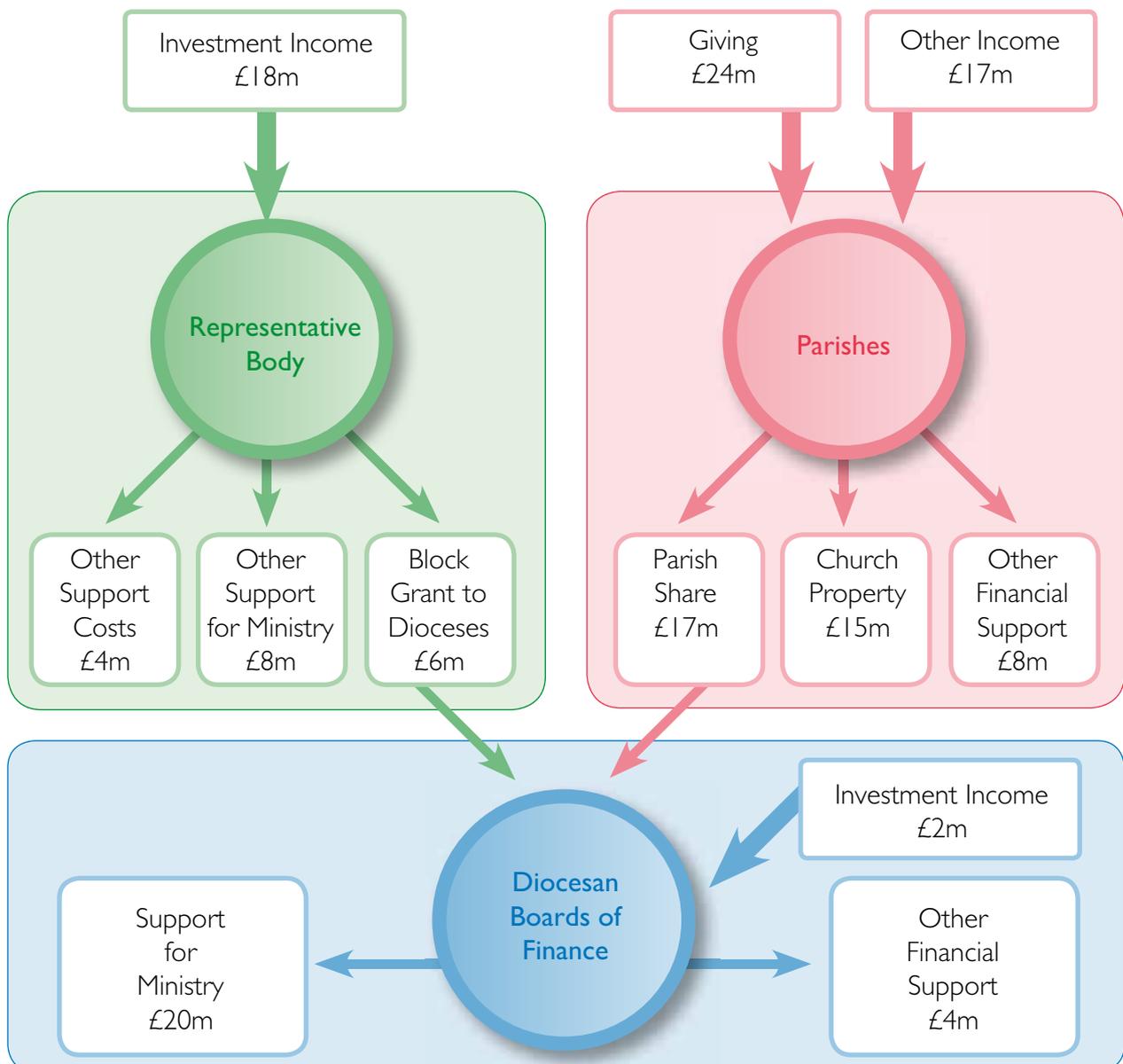
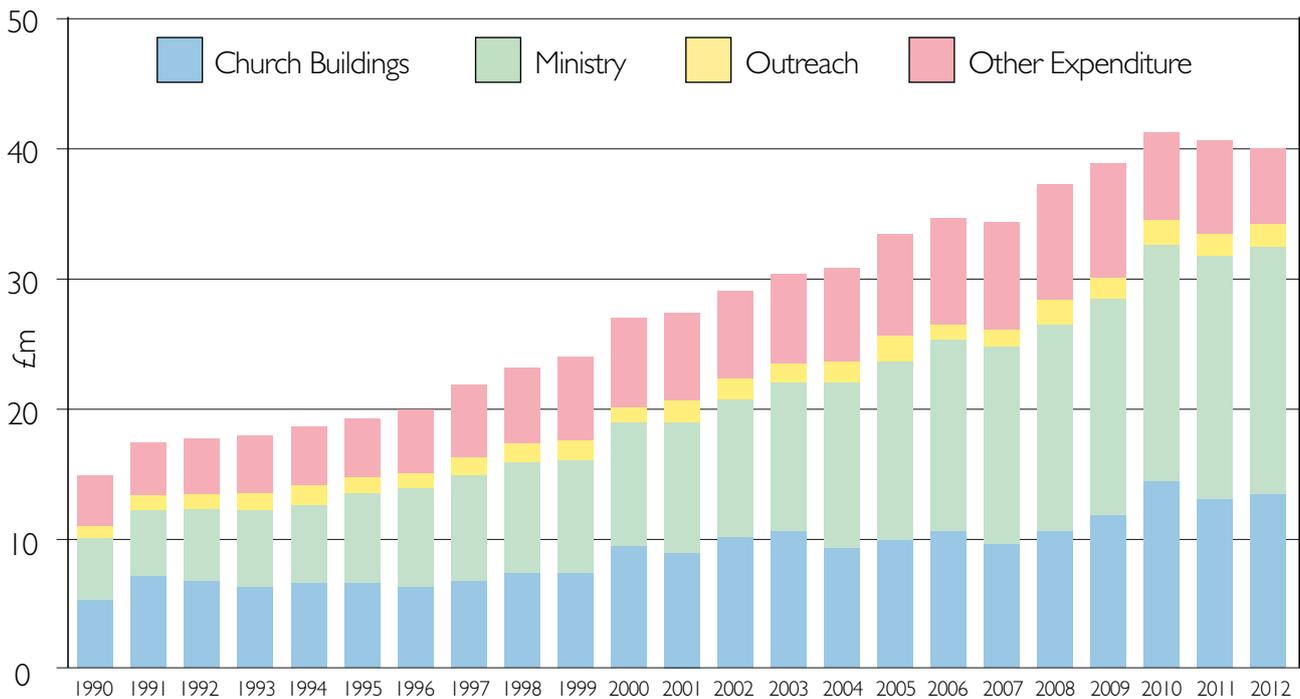


Figure 6: Total Parish Expenditure since 1990



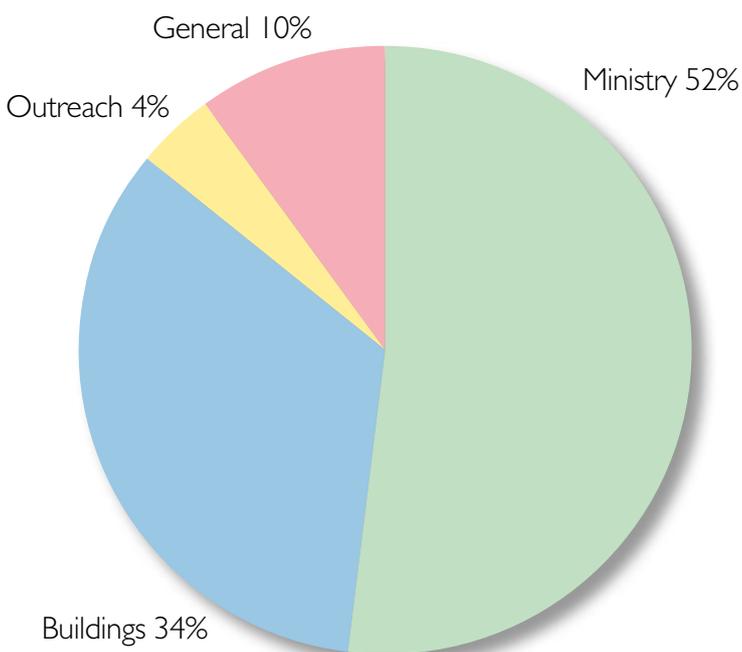
How do Parishes Spend their Money?

Figure 6 shows how parishes have spent funds over the period 1990 to 2012. Whilst the total expenditure has risen, the proportions spent on different items have also changed.

In 1990 the largest proportion of parish

expenditure was on buildings. However, since then expenditure on ministry costs has increased at a faster rate than expenditure on buildings, and by 1995 parishes were spending more on ministry than on buildings. Total parish expenditure in 1990 was £14,909,000 compared to £40,142,000 in 2012.

Figure 7: Parish Expenditure 2012



Parish Expenditure in 2012

Figure 7 provides a different view of parish expenditure in 2012. Although total expenditure on ministry rose in 2012, the proportion of expenditure on ministry fell from 54% in 2011 to 52% in 2012, whilst expenditure on buildings increased as a proportion from 32% to 34%.

However, this should not disguise the fact that expenditure in both areas has increased on 2011 levels. It is also worth recognising that parishes are continuing to devote 4% of expenditure on outreach, despite facing increasing bills for Parish Share and building maintenance during such a difficult economic period.