

# Membership And Finances 2007/2008



## Introduction

This report is prepared each year following the completion by parishes of a standard questionnaire. It sets out information on key trends in attendance, income and expenditure in the Church in Wales for that year. The proportion of parishes responding to the annual survey is extremely high – typically 95% - and so the information it provides can be used with confidence by the Church in its planning at all levels – parochial, diocesan and provincial. This report is intended only to be a summary of the provincial picture; significantly more detailed reports are produced for diocesan use.

## “Membership”

Table 1 and Figures 1 and 2 provide a summary of data collected to provide an idea of parish “membership” for 2007 and 2008. The figures for 2008 show:

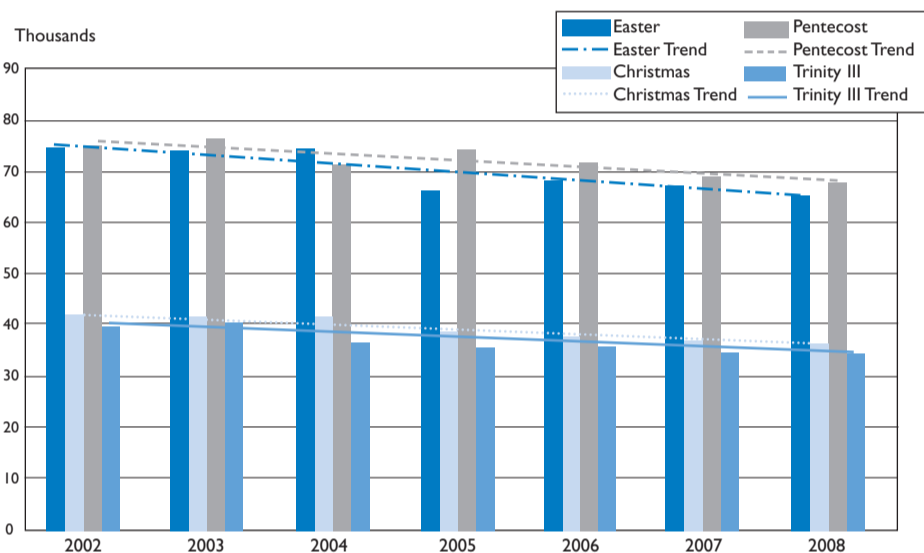
- The rate of decline in average Sunday and total weekly attendances has slowed, and there has been an increase in average weekday attendances.
- No major decline in the average attendance figures for young people.
- No significant change in the attendance of occasional offices except for a significant decline in the number of confirmations (although the number of baptisms rose). It is not clear what the cause of such a decline might be.

**Table 1 Provincial Summary of Parish ‘Membership’ for 2007 and 2008**

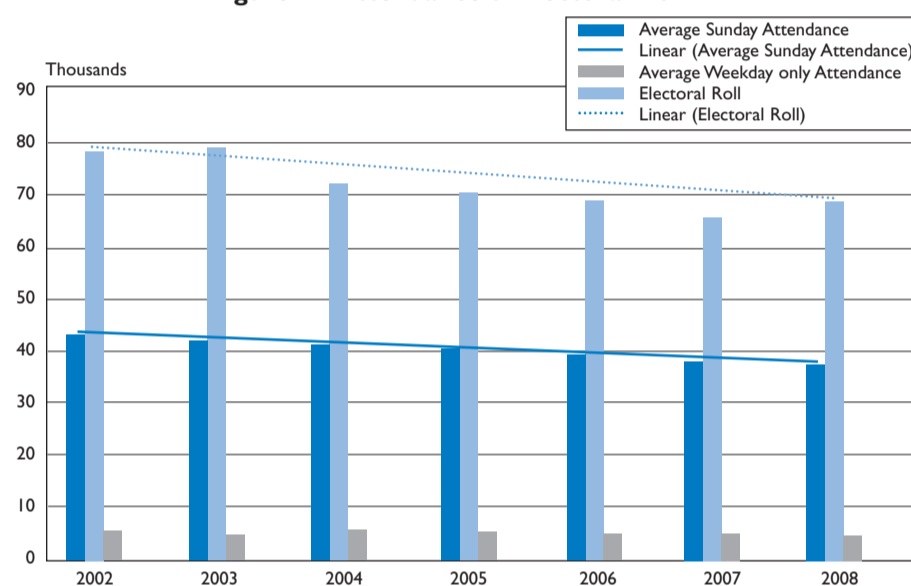
|                               | 2007   | 2008   | 2009   | 2007 - 2008 |     | Annual Trend * |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|-----|----------------|
|                               |        |        |        | +/-         | %   |                |
| Communicants                  |        |        |        |             |     |                |
| Easter                        | 67,201 | 65,088 | 65,240 | -2,113      | -3  | -1,800         |
| Pentecost                     | 37,512 | 37,149 |        | -363        | -1  | -899           |
| Christmas                     | 68,745 | 67,149 |        | -1,596      | -2  | -1,443         |
| Trinity III                   | 35,571 | 35,463 |        | -108        | -0  | -784           |
| Average Attendance - over 18  |        |        |        |             |     |                |
| Sunday                        | 38,389 | 37,633 |        | -756        | -2  | -1,011         |
| Weekdays only                 | 5,358  | 5,511  |        | 153         | 3   | -45            |
| Average Attendance - under 18 | 6,301  | 6,277  |        | -24         | -0  | -445           |
| Electoral Roll                | 66,720 | 68,657 |        | 1,937       | 3   | -2,029         |
| Baptisms                      | 8,170  | 8,513  |        | 343         | 4   | -125           |
| Confirmations                 | 1,879  | 1,565  |        | -314        | -17 | -136           |
| Weddings                      | 3,538  | 3,526  |        | -12         | -0  | -76            |
| Funerals                      | 8,100  | 8,150  |        | 50          | 1   |                |

\* calculated from data collected for the seven years 2002 to 2008

**Figure 1 - Communicants**



**Figure 2 - Attendance & Electoral Roll**



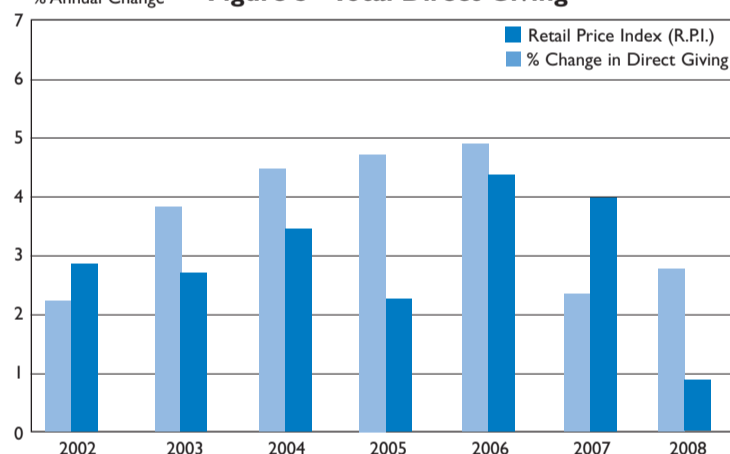
## Finances

### Parish Income and Expenditure

Table 2 and Figures 3, 4 and 5 provide an illustration of parish finances.

| Table 2 Provincial Summary of Parish Finances for 2007 and 2008 |               |               |                         |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| INCOME  | 2007          | 2008          | EXPENDITURE             | 2007          | 2008          |
|   | £(000)        | £(000)        |                         | £(000)        | £(000)        |
| Planned Direct Giving   | 11,206        | 11,599        | Maintenance of Ministry | 15,334        | 16,131        |
| Other Direct Giving   | 3,292         | 3,291         | Maintenance of Churches | 4,643         | 5,250         |
| Total Direct Giving   | 14,498        | 14,890        | Maintenance of Services | 1,402         | 1,430         |
| Income Tax Refunds  | 2,700         | 2,814         | Mission - Home          | 1,108         | 1,101         |
| Grants  | 2,524         | 3,887         | Mission - World         | 650           | 658           |
| World Church  | 517           | 478           | Clerics' Expenses       | 1,589         | 1,559         |
| Money Raising   | 3,561         | 3,946         | General Parish Expenses | 2,188         | 2,443         |
| Other Income  | 9,701         | 8,957         | Maintenance of Property | 2,057         | 2,838         |
| Investment Income   | 2,775         | 2,894         | Cost of Money Raising   | 549           | 584           |
|   |               |               | Capital Expenditure     | 4,919         | 5,139         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>36,276</b> | <b>37,866</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>34,439</b> | <b>37,133</b> |

**Figure 3 - Total Direct Giving**



- After a slight fall from 2006-2007, total parish income rose in 2008 to its highest level since the survey was introduced in 1990. A significant rise in grant income (54%) can perhaps be partly explained by the increasing advice available to parishes from diocese and provincial sources as grant applications. There is a corresponding increase in expenditure on the maintenance of churches (13%) and other property (40%) during the same period.

- Total direct giving increased by 2.7% in 2008, comfortably beating Retail Price inflation (0.9%). This was helped by an increase in weekly direct giving per Sunday attender from £7.23 in 2007 to £7.58 in 2008 (an increase of 4.8%). This figure represents 2.5% of the average Welsh gross weekly income of £309.10 (the same proportion as in 2007).

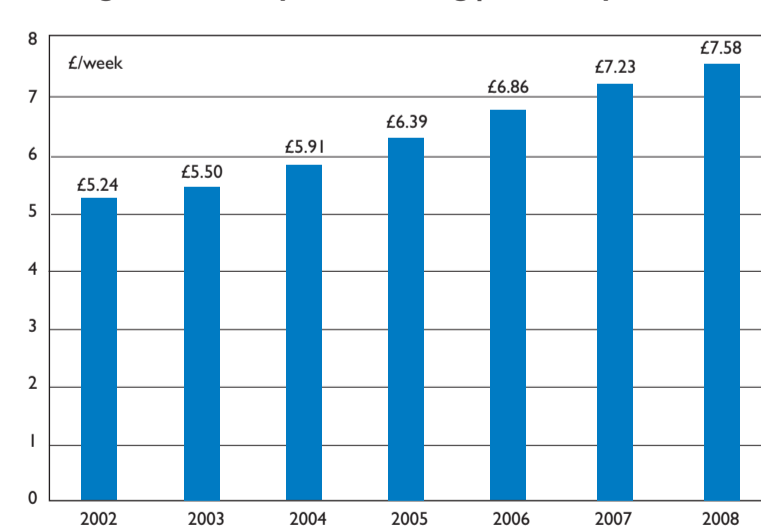
## The Provincial Picture

| Table 3 Provincial Income & Expenditure in 2007 and 2008 |             |             |                 |            |                     |             |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | Parishes    |             | Diocesan Boards |            | Representative Body |             | TOTAL       |             |
|  | 2007        | 2008        | 2007            | 2008       | 2007                | 2008        | 2007        | 2008        |
| <b>INCOME</b>  | £m          | £m          | £m              | £m         | £m                  | £m          | £m          | £m          |
| Direct Giving  | 14.5        | 14.9        | -               | -          | -                   | -           | 14.5        | 14.9        |
| Other Income   | 19.0        | 20.1        | -               | -          | -                   | -           | 19.0        | 20.1        |
| Investments  | 2.8         | 2.9         | 0.4             | 0.4        | 18.8                | 20.0        | 22.0        | 23.3        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>36.3</b> | <b>37.9</b> | <b>0.4</b>      | <b>0.4</b> | <b>18.8</b>         | <b>20.0</b> | <b>55.5</b> | <b>58.3</b> |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                                       | £m          | £m          | £m              | £m         | £m                  | £m          | £m          | £m          |
| Ministry   | 15.3        | 16.1        | -               | -          | 13.2                | 12.9        | 28.5        | 29.0        |
| Running Costs  | 17.3        | 19.2        | 0.4             | 0.4        | 2.9                 | 3.1         | 20.6        | 22.7        |
| Outreach   | 1.8         | 1.8         | -               | -          | 0.6                 | 0.9         | 2.4         | 2.7         |
| Reinvested   | 1.9         | 0.8         | -               | -          | 2.1                 | 3.1         | 4.0         | 3.9         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>36.3</b> | <b>37.9</b> | <b>0.4</b>      | <b>0.4</b> | <b>18.8</b>         | <b>20.0</b> | <b>55.5</b> | <b>58.3</b> |

- Parish expenditure in support of ministry increased once again in 2008, although the contribution from provincial sources remains high in comparison with the Anglican Communion more generally. The contribution of the Representative Body will remain an important factor into the future: in 2008 the RB agreed to allocate an additional £500,000 per annum to dioceses via the block grant, much of which is likely to be used to meet ministry costs. (This expenditure will be reflected in the 2009 report.)

- As parishes seek to exploit fully all potential sources of income, it is good to note that income from income tax refunds on direct giving increased in 2008 to £2,814,000. However, returns suggest that a further £450,000 of potential income from tax relief remained unclaimed on planned direct giving across the province in 2008. Parishes are encouraged to make full use of the Gift Aid scheme to maximise their income.

**Figure 4 - Weekly Direct Giving per Sunday Attender**



**Figure 5 - Summary of Parish Expenditure**

