



Membership And Finances 2008/2009

Introduction

This report is prepared each year from information provided by parishes via the standard Membership and Finance return. It sets out information on key trends in attendance, income and expenditure in the Church in Wales.

The proportion of parishes responding to the annual survey is extremely high – typically 95% – and so the information it provides may 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 2008 and 2009. A number of these figures illustrate significant changes. The fall in average attendance is in line with the trend, but the fall in the average attendance of young people and the number of baptisms is much steeper (although the number of confirmations has risen equally steeply). Two other figures stand out, but are explicable. The Christmas communicants figure was affected by poor weather conditions (the Christmas services were cancelled in some parishes). The fall in Electoral Roll membership reflects the five-yearly review of the Electoral Roll across the province.

Figure 1 - Communicants

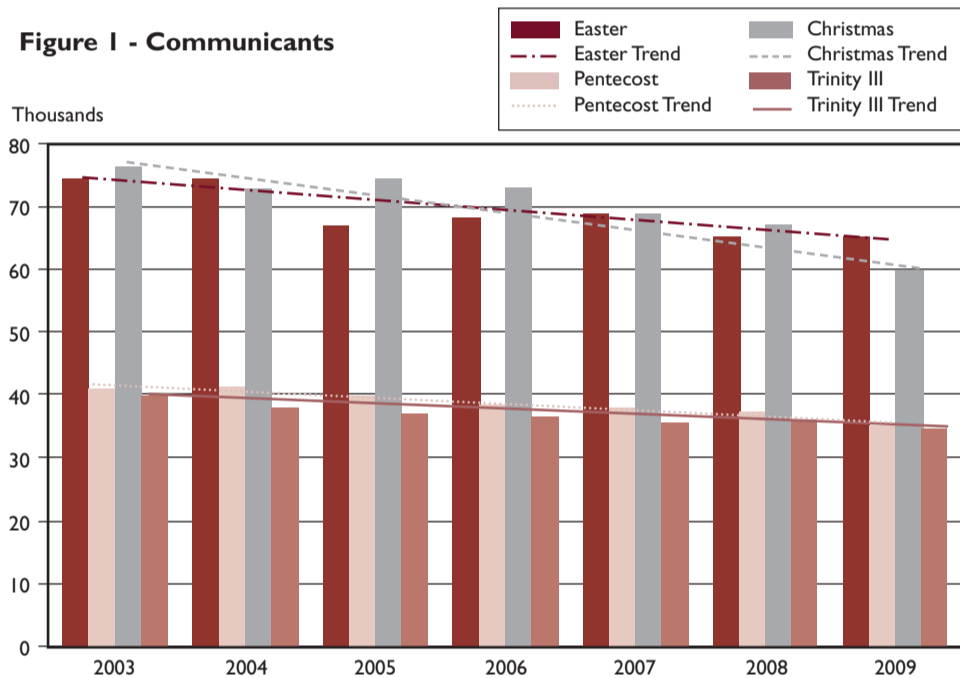


Table 1 Provincial Summary of Parish ‘Membership’ for 2008 and 2009

		2008	2009	2010	2008 - 2009		Annual
					+/-	%	Trend *
Communicants	Easter	65,088	65,251	63,515	163	0	-1,657
	Pentecost	37,151	35,605		-1,546	-4	-964
	Christmas	67,021	59,656		-7,365	-11	-2,369
	Trinity III	35,463	34,589		-874	-2	-807
Average Attendance - over 18							
	Sundays	37,681	36,836		-845	-2	-1,013
	Weekdays only	5,488	5,416		-72	-1	-65
Average Attendance - under 18		6,207	5,467		-740	-12	-431
Electoral Roll		65,644	58,106		-7,538	-11	-2,794
Baptisms		8,517	8,076		-441	-5	-63
Confirmations		1,555	1,697		142	9	-114
Weddings		3,522	3,479		-43	-1	-119
Funerals		8,135	7,705		-430	-5	

* calculated from data collected for the seven years 2003 to 2009

Figure 2 - Attendance & Electoral Roll

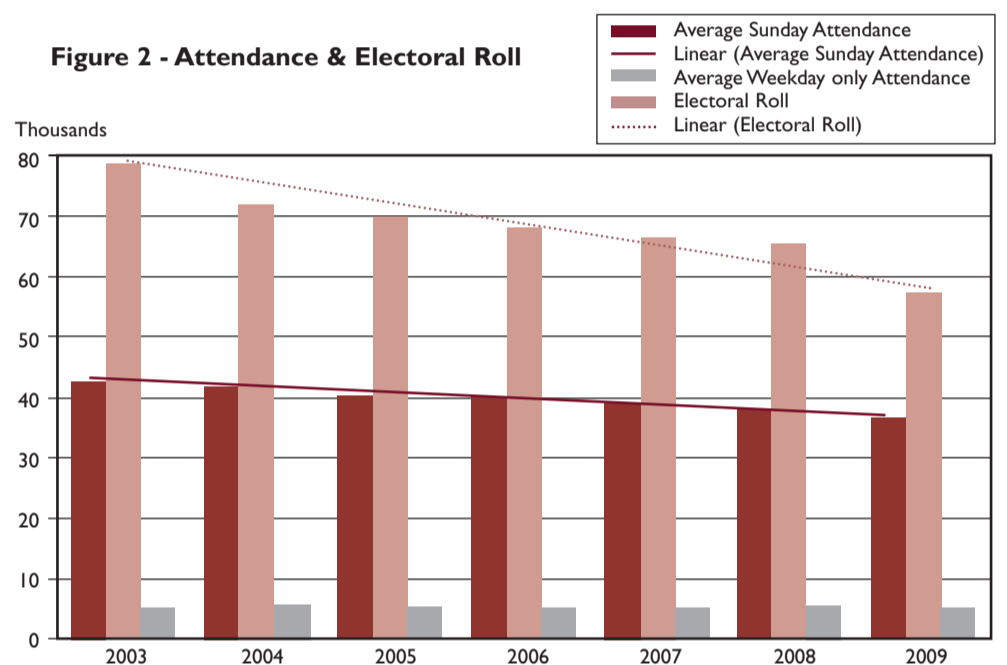
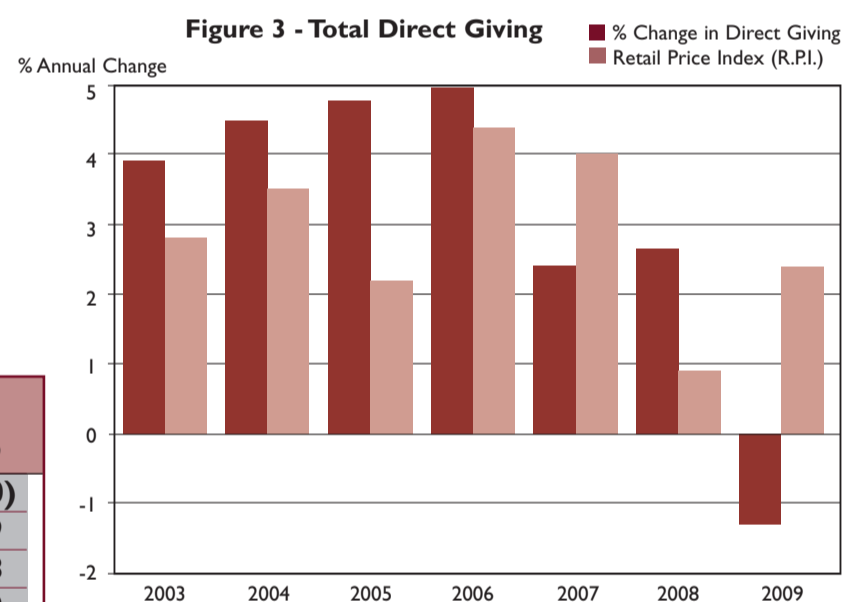


Figure 3 - Total Direct Giving



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 2008 and 2009									
INCOME	2008		2009		EXPENDITURE	2008		2009	
	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)		£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)
Planned Direct Giving	11,610	11,630	Maintenance of Ministry	16,105	16,589				
Other Direct Giving	3,271	3,057	Maintenance of Churches	5,289	6,188				
Total Direct Giving	14,881	14,687	Maintenance of Services	1,438	1,429				
Income Tax Refunds	2,823	2,986	Mission - Home	1,097	1,100				
Grants	3,958	3,947	Mission - World	658	586				
World Church	474	458	Clerics' Expenses	1,565	1,568				
Money Raising	3,948	3,935	General Parish Expenses	2,442	2,348				
Other Income	9,085	9,010	Maintenance of Property	2,847	2,854				
Investment Income	2,854	2,530	Cost of Money Raising	585	546				
			Capital Expenditure	5,255	5,708				
TOTAL	38,023	37,553	TOTAL	37,281	38,916				

The Provincial Picture

Table 3 Provincial Income & Expenditure in 2008 and 2009								
INCOME	Parishes		Diocesan Boards		Representative Body		TOTAL	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Direct Giving	14.9	14.7	-	-	-	-	14.9	14.7
Other Income	20.2	20.3	-	-	-	-	20.2	20.3
Investments	2.9	2.5	0.4	0.4	20.0	16.5	23.3	19.4
TOTAL	38.0	37.5	0.4	0.4	20.0	16.5	58.4	54.4
EXPENDITURE	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Ministry	16.1	16.6	-	-	12.9	11.7	29.0	28.3
Running Costs	19.4	20.6	0.4	0.4	3.1	3.2	22.9	24.2
Outreach	1.8	1.7	-	-	0.9	0.9	2.7	2.6
TOTAL	37.3	38.9	0.4	0.4	16.9	15.8	54.6	55.1
Balance	0.7	-1.4	-	-	3.1	0.7	3.8	-0.7

The Representative Body's income fell sharply between 2008 and 2009, with interest rates and dividends remaining low: funds such as the RB's will always be vulnerable to dramatic market changes of the sort experienced in recent years. Parishes are taking on a greater proportion of the costs of providing ministry, but only relatively slowly.

The cost of maintaining and improving church buildings is becoming a larger slice of the pie chart summarising parish expenditure (up to 31% in 2009 from 28% in 2008), supported by increasing grant income as parishes make greater use of the funds available.

The Representative Body and dioceses encourage church members to write to their MP to ask for the continuation of the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme, which has been a major provider of such income but which is due to expire at the end of March 2011.

Thanks are extended to all who contributed to the preparation, collection, analysis and production of the annual statistics. Further copies or information can be obtained from:- The Representative Body, 39 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9XF. Tel: 029 2034 8200 or email: information@churchinwales.org.uk or www.churchinwales.org.uk

Figures for 2008 have been updated since the production of last year's report. Consequently this report contains the revised figures for 2008.

Figure 4 - Weekly Direct Giving per Sunday Attender

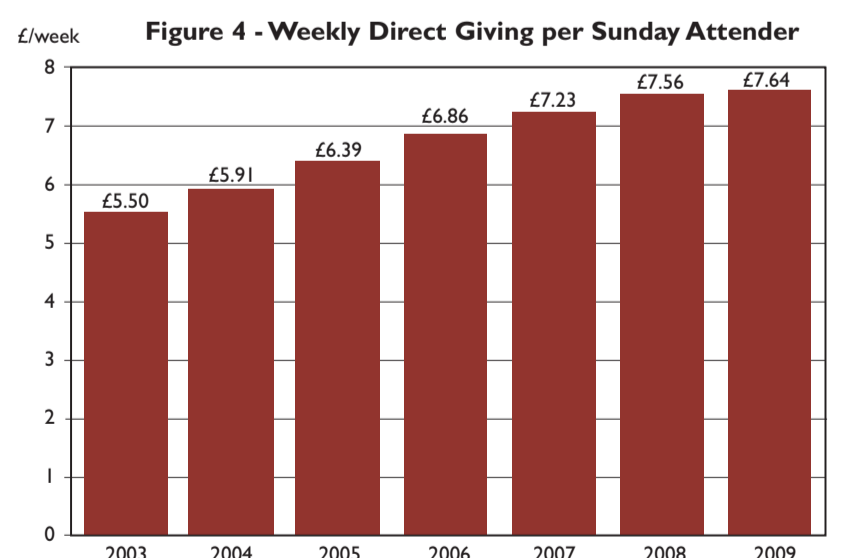


Figure 5 - Summary of Parish Expenditure 2009

