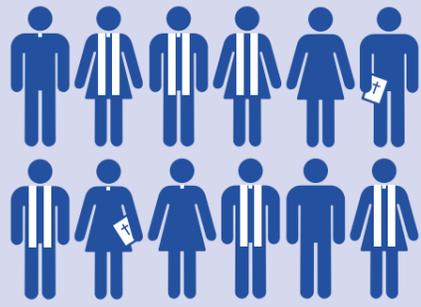


PARISHES, SCHOOLS AND CHAPLAINCIES:

Living God's Love in figures



There were **256 parish clergy** and another **31 non-parochial clergy** in the **1,100 square miles** of the Diocese of St Albans in 2018.

Across the week, on average, **28,700** people of all ages attend church for services, but over half the population are likely to step into a church at some point during any year, for one of the **1,200 weddings or wedding blessings or 2,149 funerals**, (with clergy or Readers taking a further **1,633 crematoria funeral services** in the diocese). Maybe people will be among those attending **2,553 christenings** for infants or children or **257 adult baptisms**.



As well as those attending on an average Sunday or weekday, there were **40,494** people at church on **Easter Day**, **28,907** of them taking Holy Communion. At **Christmas**, **111,161** attended and **31,992** took Holy Communion.

Apart from those occasions, there are countless mother and toddler groups, seniors' lunches, exhibitions, concerts or visits where the intention is just to find a quiet place to think or pray.

Parish clergy are supported by the generosity of local people giving to their parish church and in 2018 they contributed **£12.9 million** in total for this purpose and paid to the diocese as **parish share**. This pays for clergy pay, pensions and training - and more. **£13.3 million** was the total spent on this parish ministry support in 2018. That's 3% more than parishes put in.

Parishes raise far more money than this, also paying for the upkeep of their building with very limited sources of grant support, their mission activities and also giving away **£2.03m** in charitable gifts (2016) to a wide variety of causes. And there are also the incalculable gifts of time and talent that many people give to help with running their parish church.

Identifying vocations led to **14** people starting ordination training, making **41** ordinands as well as **38** people in conversation with Directors of Ordinands and **16** seeing a Vocations Adviser.

18 deacons and 20 priests were ordained and **5** people were admitted and licensed as **Readers**.

Colin Bird, Board of Finance Chair and himself a parish treasurer for over thirty years said:

"Parish contributions to the parish share requests rose 3% in 2018 even though some parishes found their financial positions challenging. Overall, the Board of Finance pays out more in support of parish ministry than it receives from parish share alone. Improved returns from property investments in 2018 helped to continue to make this possible.

We gratefully acknowledge the huge efforts from our church members in the parishes to continue to give generously to enable the parish contributions to be paid. These contributions are vital to continuing the Church of England's presence in the communities of the Diocese of St Albans through the mutual support which the parish share scheme enables. The operations of this diocese are complex and many faceted. As I start this triennium as Chairman, I have been impressed by the commitment and skill with which those who work in the diocesan office conduct their roles."



Wherever you are in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Luton or North Barnet, you are in one of **338 parishes**. In each, ministry to their communities in and out of **400 church buildings** takes place (as well as in places which are not church buildings including village halls, schools, cafés, pubs and other venues).

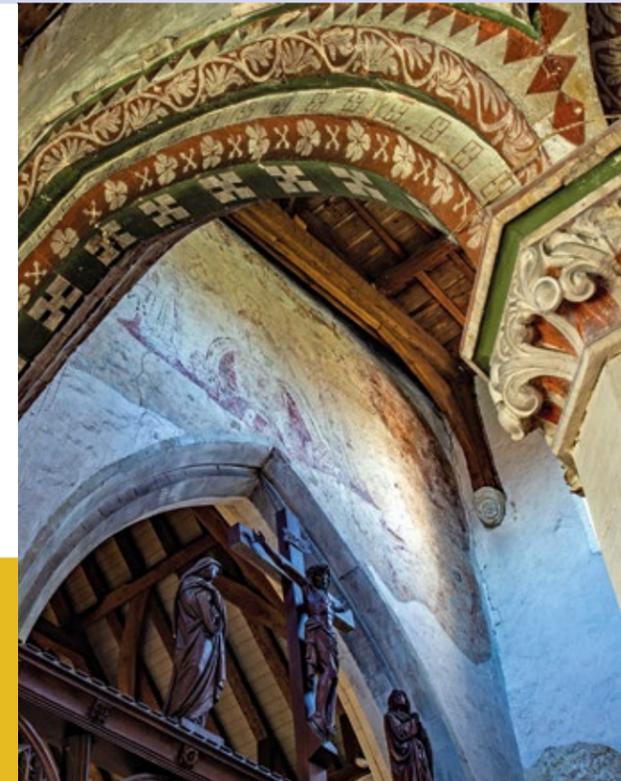
Making church building fit for mission involved the **Advisory Committee** in **70 visits** and **462 cases** in 2018 resulting in:

152 Notifications of Advice for Faculties
297 Archdeacons' Letters of Authority
12 Temporary Re-ordering Licences

for matters including:

6 extensions	66 mechanical, electrical or services cases
41 reorderings/alterations	169 churchyard cases
79 repairs	44 other cases (bells, organs, clocks etc)
56 furniture/fitting cases	

St Leonard's Church, Flamstead, was one of a number of projects in the diocese which won funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to either develop or execute a project supporting the building and, in this case, the telling of its 900 year old story. The Historic Church Buildings Support Officer guides and assists many parishes with these and other funding applications.



A new vision for education emerged in 2018

The Diocesan Board of Education adopted a revised vision for its work and its 136 schools in 2018.

The new vision, 'Living God's Love in Education: Enabling Life in all its Fullness,' is a contemporary interpretation of the historic vision that saw Joshua Watson form the National Society in 1811 with the aim of placing a Church of England school in every parish to educate the poor.

The vision promotes the development of church schools as Christian communities centred on a common Christian vision for education. At the heart of this Christian vision is the commitment to high-quality education, to a shared life together, to worship and to prayer.

90% of schools supported by the Board are currently graded good or outstanding.

Diocese of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust (DSAMAT)

The Trust was established in October 2016 to support Church of England schools within the Diocese.

It comprises seven academies and is currently awaiting the outcome of the application by Totternhoe Academy to become a Church of England Academy.

The Trust's first Ofsted inspection, at Churchfield CE Academy, led to these comments from the lead inspector:



'The support and challenge that DSAMAT offers the school is very effective. The Trust board and the regional hub boards have clearly defined areas of responsibility that are communicated clearly to school leaders. Both bodies play an important role in supporting school improvement. Leaders value the strategic contributions made by the chief executive officer, trustees and hub board member.'