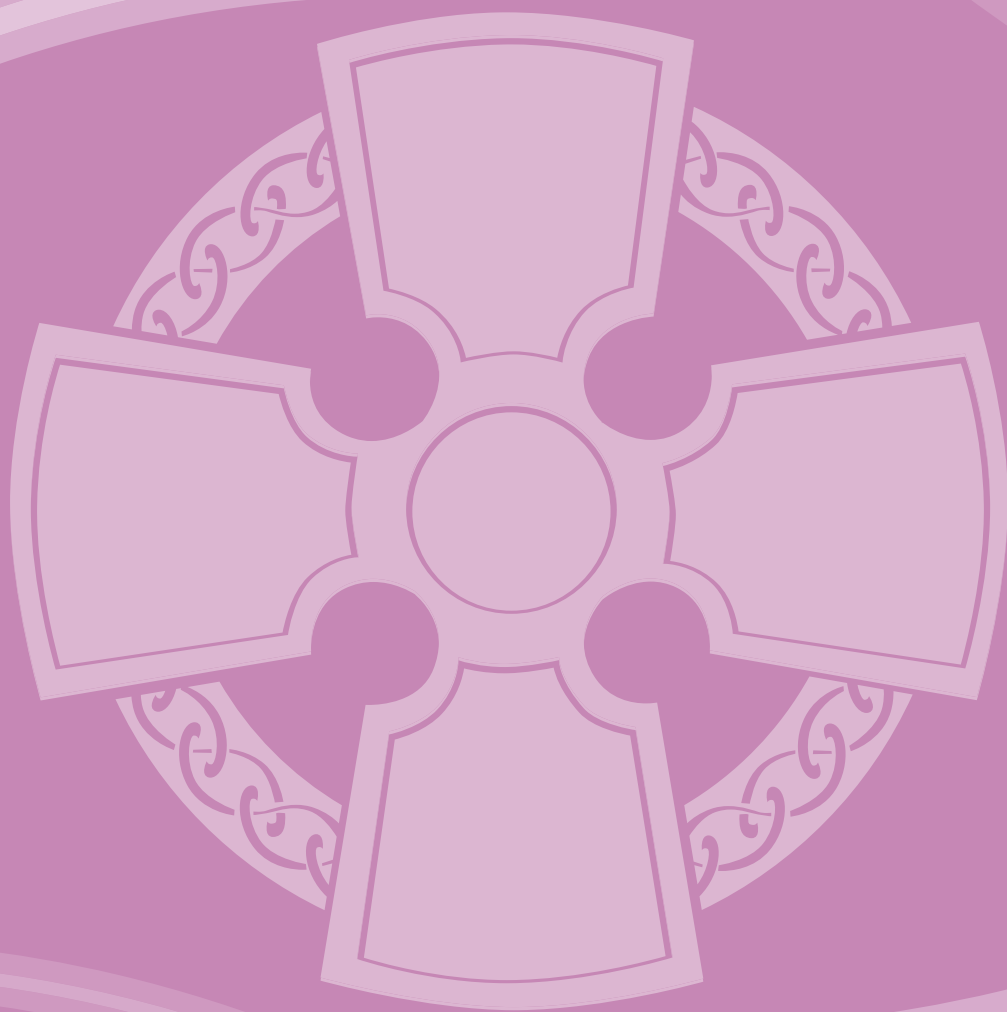


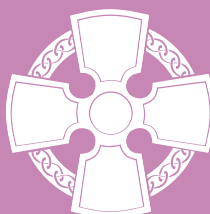
The Church in Wales

Membership and Finances

2013

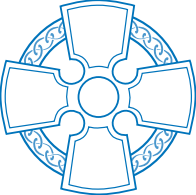


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THE CHURCH
IN WALES

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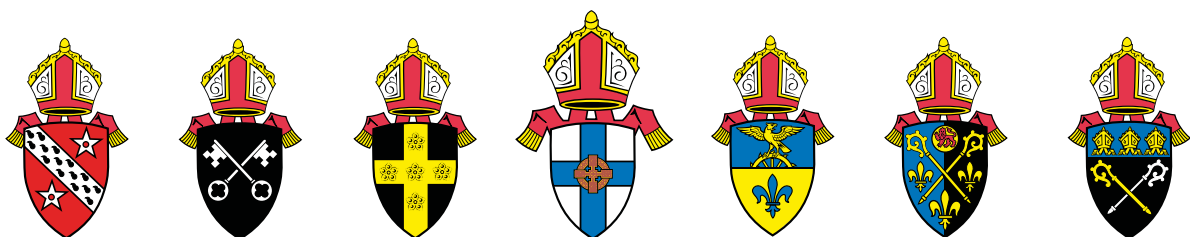
THE CHURCH
IN WALES

Welcome to the Church in Wales Membership and Finances report for 2013.

It is good to be able to report that this year's figures are based on a 93% return from Church in Wales parishes. This means that, once again, we are able to use these figures to draw important conclusions about the situation of the Church, and to help inform planning at all levels from parish to Province. As ever, we are grateful to clergy and parish officers for your efforts in ensuring that the completed questionnaires reach us in time for the annual report to be produced for the Governing Body.

This is becoming a period of significant change for the Church in Wales, as the key recommendations of the Church in Wales Review – 2020 Vision – are considered and implemented. In particular, all dioceses are now in the process of developing Ministry Areas and Ministry Area Teams as part of a shift to a new, more participative model of Church. In the years to come this Membership and Finances report will help illustrate what the effect of these changes has been. However, at this stage, the data collected via the annual returns is playing an important role in helping dioceses and area deaneries to explore the potential for individual parishes to begin sharing their Church life with one another more closely.

To ensure that decision-making is informed, it is important that Governing Body members and the wider Church are given a true, un-sugared picture of the level of participation in Church life across Wales and of the Church's finances. This year's report contains some difficult figures for the Church to digest: lower levels of regular and occasional participation, with responsibility for meeting parish costs falling on a reducing core of members. This is the context within which dioceses are considering how best to deploy the significant resources – people, buildings, money – which we still enjoy as a Church. The picture painted by the figures in this report suggests that this work is urgent.



Membership

Table 1: Participation in Parish Life for 2013 and 2012

		2013	2012	2013 - 2012	%
Communicants	Easter	50,639	56,063	-5,424	-10
	Pentecost	30,672	32,469	-1,797	-6
	Christmas	52,387	55,007	-2,620	-5
	Trinity III	29,744	30,705	-961	-3
Average Attendance - over 18	Sundays	31,048	32,187	-1,139	-4
	Weekdays only	3,794	3,986	-192	-5
Average Attendance - under 18		6,187	6,776	-589	-9
Electoral Roll		53,294	55,185	-1,891	-3
Baptisms		7,262	7,497	-235	-3
Confirmations		1,201	1,458	-257	-18
Weddings		3,021	3,458	-437	-13
Funerals		6,435	6,520	-85	-1

The concept of "Membership" in the Church in Wales has always proved difficult to define, the claim 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 (although not in 2013), with average Sunday attendance providing a more reliable guide to regular levels of participation. In addition, Electoral Roll figures have been used to record the number in each community with a demonstrable connection to the work of the parish.

The Picture for 2013 compared with 2012

Table 1 sets out a comparison of key attendance figures for 2013 and 2012. What is immediately apparent is that this year there are no positive indicators: every field shows decline compared with the previous year, and in some cases that decline is significant.

Year-on-year variations in communicant figures for major festivals cannot be explained by inclement weather or school holidays. The figure for Easter communicants fell by 10% in 2013 compared with the 2012 figure, which had itself represented a fall of 8% on the 2011 figure.

The eye is drawn also to the 9% decline in average attendance by the Under 18s and the 18% decline in the number of confirmations, both fields in which there had been signs of growth in 2012. The Church's falling levels of engagement with young people remains an area of considerable concern, making the efforts by some parishes to try new initiatives to reach this demographic (see page 4) all the more important. There is also a significant, if difficult to explain, fall of 13% in the number of weddings in our churches.

The annual decline in average Sunday attendance is slightly above the trend, suggesting that our core membership continues to fall year-on-year. However, a counterpoint to this narrative of decline is offered by a new category in this year's membership questionnaire. Designed to capture a broader impression of participation in Church life than the traditional categories set out in Table 1, the new question asked parishes for the number of attenders at other acts of worship during the year, which might include: family services; carol services; Remembrance services. Total attendance at such events during 2013 comes to some 105,000.

Arresting the Decline, Trying New Things

Whilst the statistics for participation in parish life described on page 3 of this report may offer few reasons to be optimistic, if we move from provincial trends to parish activity there are clear signs of parishes which are trying new things, and are experiencing growth. Over the past three years we have been gathering statistics for non-traditional forms of worship, and in 2013 it is estimated that just under 12,000 people were involved in such activities. What parishes choose to share with us via this part of the annual membership return varies greatly, but includes:

- RiverWalk;
- Teddy Bears' Tea Party;
- Rushbearing Service;
- Jigsaw Service;
- Snowdrops Service;
- Frogs, Sole Sisters, Tad Poles;
- Mustard Seeds;
- Duck Pond Worship;
- Noah's Ark;
- Barn Nativity;
- Pram Services.

One of the most popular new initiatives is Messy Church.

Messy Church is a fresh expression of church for all ages. Families meet together, most commonly on a monthly basis, to explore a Bible story or theme by doing craft and activities, celebrating God in a specific short act of informal worship and eating together. It is a church for people at all stages of their faith journey, with the aim of reaching families who would not usually attend church services. It should be a fun, friendly and welcoming place to go.

Messy Church started 10 years ago in an Anglican parish in England, but has grown rapidly and spread across denominations and across the world. In some instances a Messy Church may be run as an ecumenical venture or with a few churches in an area working together.

It is not a children's church, nor a way of attracting more people to the existing Sunday services, although this may happen. It is not a club to cater specifically for existing church members, nor a one-off event. It is a different form of church reaching out to those who, for whatever reason do not attend traditional services.

Messy Churches meet at a time that suits people who don't already come to a church. The meeting place may be a church, church hall, community hall, school or any other suitable building. There is flexibility in the way that each Messy Church structures its session, but it is important that the values of being all age, hospitality, Christ-centredness, creativity and celebration are present.

The experience of the majority of parishes starting Messy Church is that it is hard work and requires a dedicated team, but it is hugely rewarding and in most cases families who may not attend traditional services consistently come to Messy Church.

For churches that are interested in exploring the possibility of introducing Messy Church, BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) has produced a range of books and resources to help. Some Welsh language books will be available before the end of the year. Training and advice is available via BRF at <http://www.brfonline.org.uk/messy-church/> or via Lesley Cox, South Wales Messy Church Regional Coordinator. It would also be a good idea to visit a Messy Church already in existence, and you may be able to find one at: <http://www.messychurch.org.uk/messy-churches>

Finances

Table 2: Provincial Summary of Parish Finances for 2013 and 2012

INCOME (£000s)	2013 £	2012 £	EXPENDITURE (£000s)	2013 £	2012 £
Planned Giving	11,964	11,876	Parish Share	17,323	17,390
Loose Collections	2,810	2,799	Clerics' Expenses	1,357	1,386
Donations	2,998	3,227	Other Ministry Support	289	281
For Mission	535	588	Maintenance of Services	1,363	1,365
Tax Refunds	2,728	2,809	General Parish Expenses	2,015	2,015
Legacy Gifts Received	1,812	3,211	Maintenance of Churches	5,732	5,698
Grants	3,084	4,751	Maintenance of Property	2,389	2,212
Money Raising	4,983	5,018	Exceptional Property Expenditure	3,711	5,768
Fees	1,985	1,929	Parish Grants	606	564
Investments	1,531	1,520	Home/World Grants	1,084	1,112
Other Incoming Resources	5,006	4,825	Capital Payments	2,112	2,015
			Cost of Money Raising	964	636
TOTAL INCOME	39,436	42,553	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	38,945	40,442

Table 2 provides a comparison of parish income and expenditure for 2013 and 2012. Although total parish income has fallen over this period, so has total expenditure, which means that total income has exceeded total expenditure for a second year:

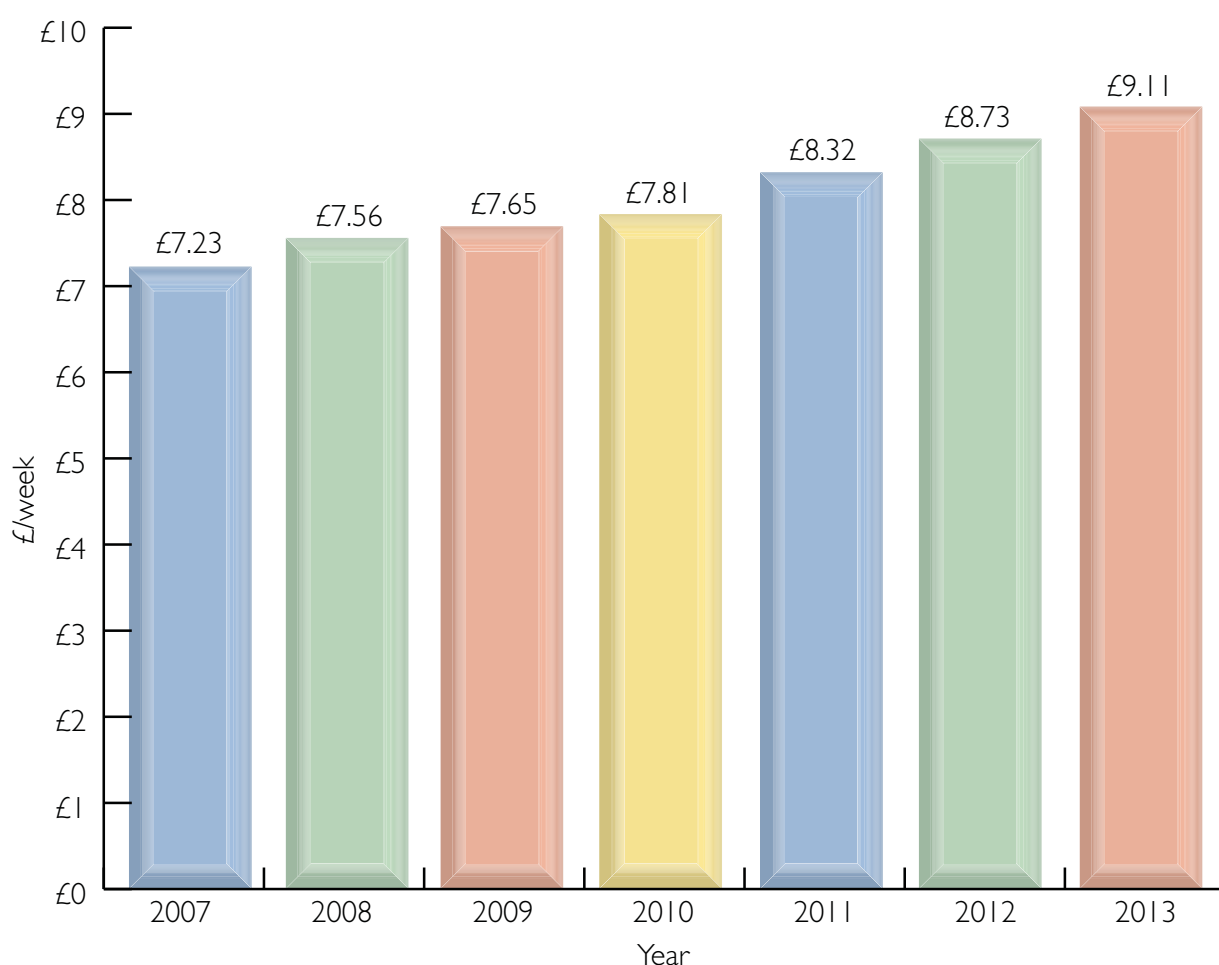
There is further good news in that direct planned giving has increased over the period, and now stands at its highest level since the annual returns were first collected in the current format in 1990, and thus most likely its highest level ever. Other measures of regular giving have stood up well, with the main reasons for the fall in total income coming from two areas which, by their very nature, must be defined as "one-off" income.

Grant income fell by over 35% in 2013, and this links to a fall also in the level of Exceptional Property Expenditure. However, whilst grant income is normally attached to one year, and so significant variations might be expected, this is the third consecutive year in which grant income

has declined. In fact, the level of grant income in 2013 is only just over one half the level of income achieved from such sources in 2010. This might signify that parishes are becoming increasingly less likely to undertake major building projects as their own financial position becomes less positive. However, there is grant funding available to Church in Wales parishes from a range of sources for all sizes of projects. Please contact the Representative Body's Property department or your Diocesan Office to discuss what might be possible.

Income from legacies has also fallen significantly, although it must also be borne in mind that a number of significant legacy gifts were received in 2012; the level of total legacy gifts in 2013 is still higher than in 2011. It is recognised that talking about legacies with Church members can be difficult, and clergy and parish treasurers are encouraged to make use of the Church in Wales Legacy pack, which is available from Diocesan Offices and Church in Wales Publications.

Figure 3: Weekly Direct Giving per Sunday Attender



Direct Giving

With total direct giving having risen during 2013, and average attendance having fallen, weekly direct giving per Sunday attender increased by 4.2% to £9.11. This represents 2.8% of the average Welsh gross weekly adult income, the same proportion as in 2012.

The message appears to be the same each year: responsibility for meeting increasing regular financial commitments is falling on a reducing core of members, who continue to give sacrificially to support the work of their parish and the wider Church. It is imperative that the

Church finds ways to deploy its resources to greatest effect (such as developing new ways of providing ministry), and makes use of such opportunities as exist to maximise the impact of the generous giving of members (for example, by using Gift Aid, see page 8).

Of course, the most effective way to ease the financial burden on members is to bring more people into the life of the Church.

Figure 4 illustrates the generosity of Church members, particularly in recent years. Giving per average Sunday attender has increased by 113% since 1990, compared with an RPI increase of 95%. Over that period total direct giving has increased from £6.9million in 1990 to £14.8million in 2013.

Figure 4: Changes in Direct Giving

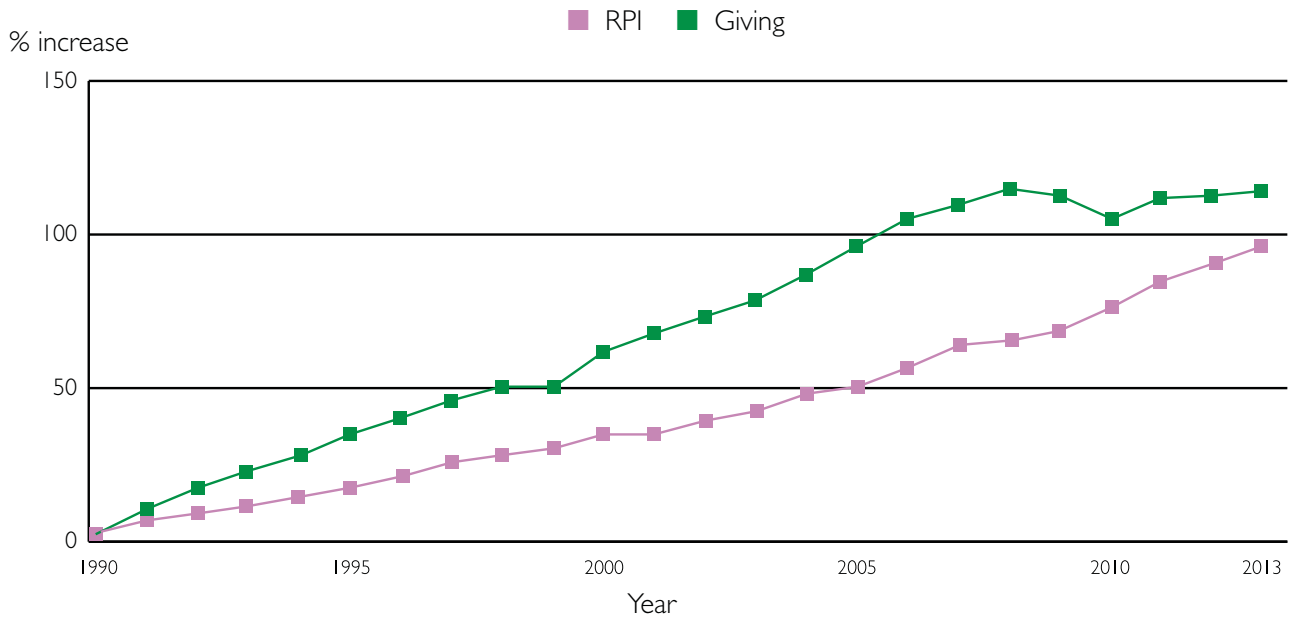
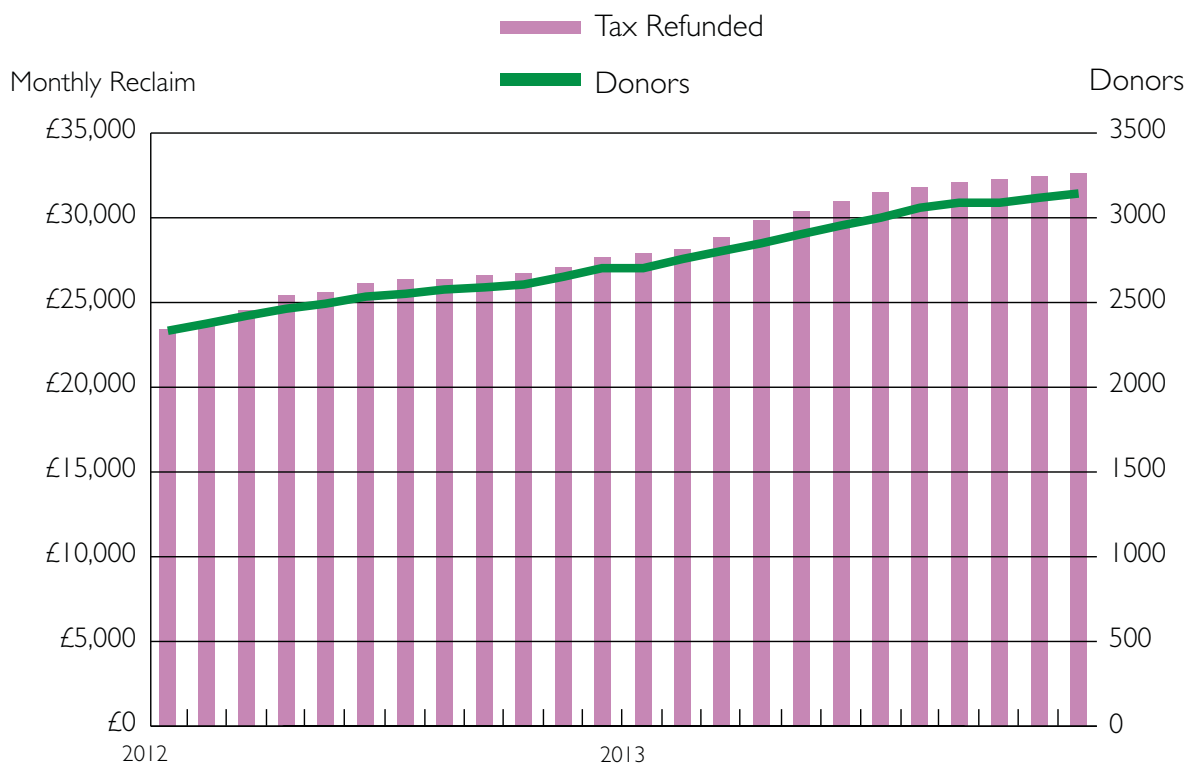


Figure 5: Donors and Tax Reclaim via Gift Direct in 2012 and 2013



One way in which the impact of members' giving can be maximised without increasing the administrative burden on parish officers is for members to give via the provincial Gift Direct scheme. Under this scheme, individual donors make monthly donations via Direct Debit, and each donation, plus any tax reclaim due via Gift Aid, is paid electronically into a nominated parish account each month. All administration, including the tax reclaim, is dealt with by provincial staff, with statements sent to parish treasurers or Gift Aid Secretaries. The amount given, how and when it is varied and to whom it should be paid remains in the hands of the donor.

In addition to providing parishes with a known monthly income, evidence suggests that those giving via Gift Direct give more per head than the average Sunday attender. Although making the move to donate via Direct Debit can be a cultural shift for members, it is often more convenient for members to do so.

Figure 5 illustrates the numbers of donors giving via Gift Direct and the amount of tax reclaimed on donations in 2012 and 2013. Even in that relatively short period, the number of donors has increased from 2,332 to 3,145. During that time the amount of tax reclaimed on those donations per month has increased from £23,209 (Annual figure 2012 £308,402) to £32,508 (Annual figure 2013 £367,195). (Please note: you do not need to be a tax payer to make donations via Gift Direct.)

For information on Gift Direct please contact: glendaedwards@churchinwales.org.uk

Figure 6 How the Church in Wales is Funded 2013

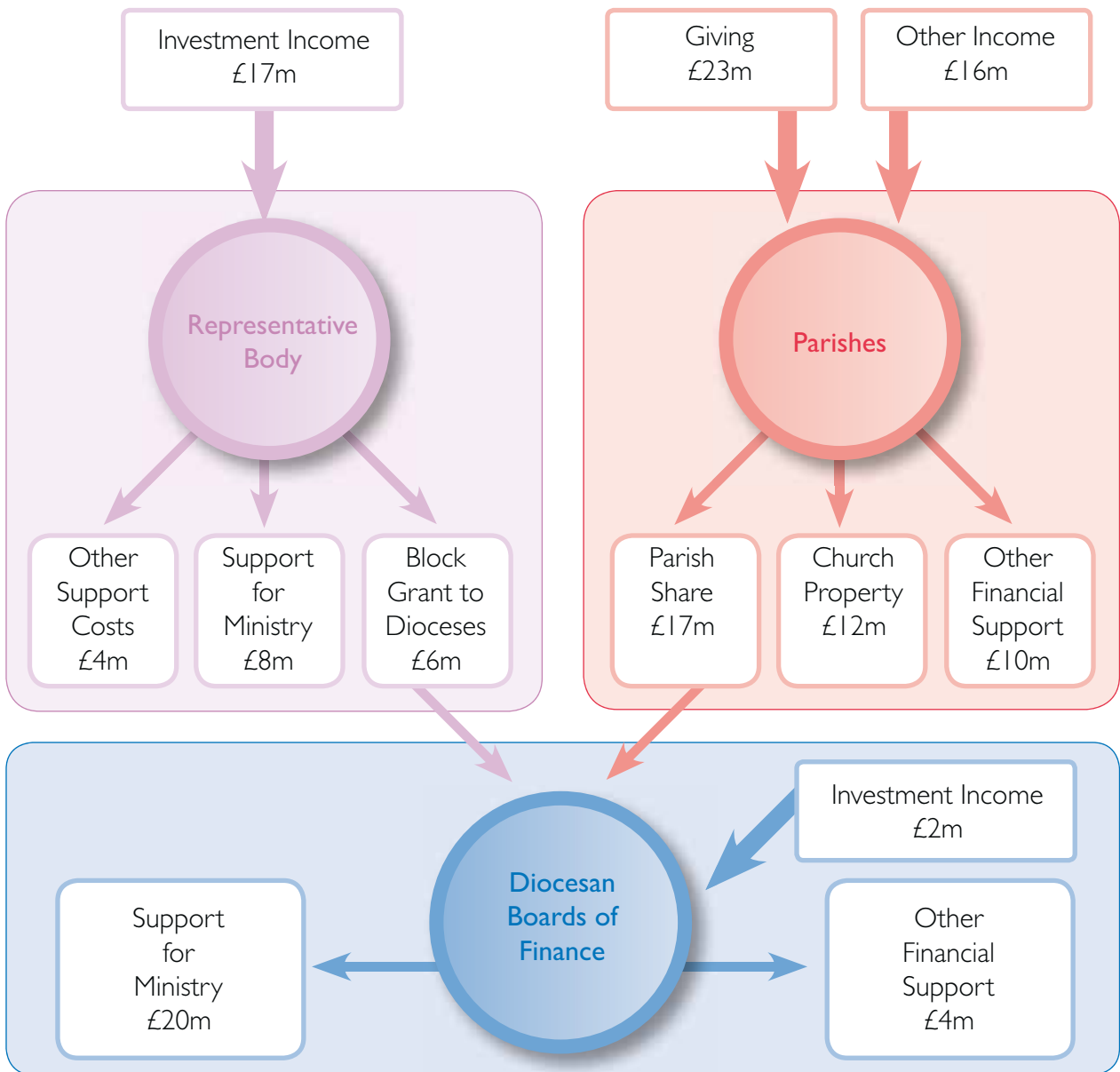
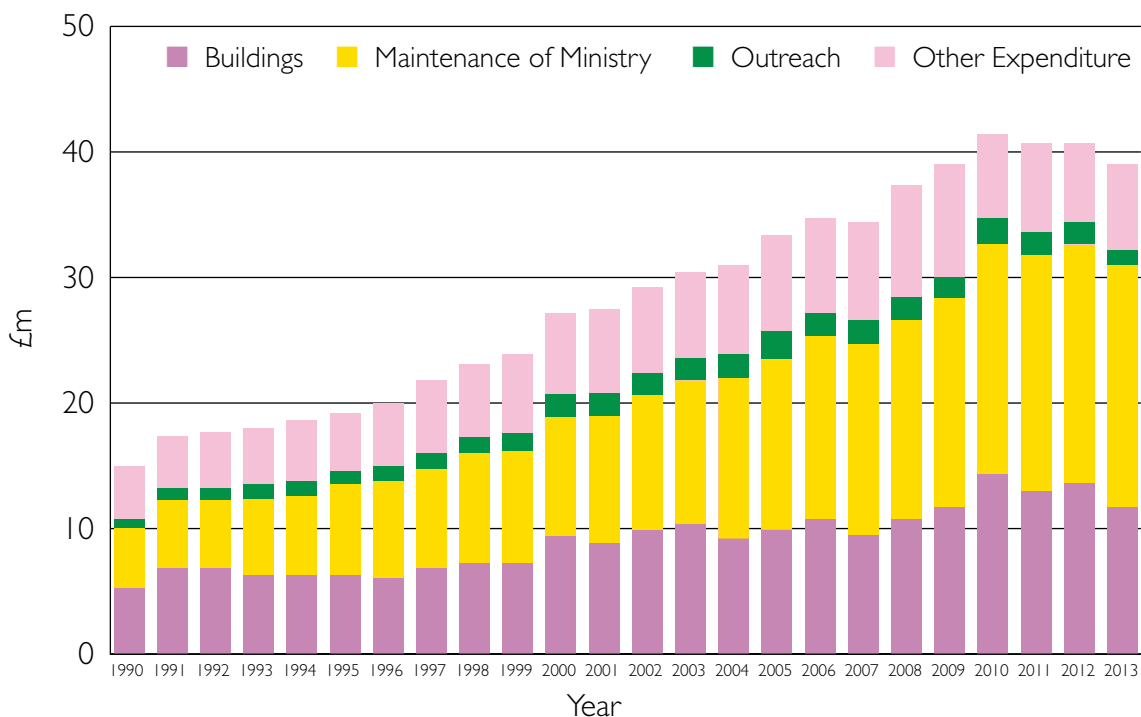


Figure 7: Parish Expenditure since 1990



How do Parishes Spend their Money?

Total parish expenditure has fallen for the past three years, with the biggest fall in the amount of expenditure on buildings. This links to the figures for grant income and exceptional property

expenditure on page 5. However, it is also part of a much longer trend which has seen parish expenditure shift decisively towards ministry costs at the expense of buildings over the past thirty years.

Figure 8: Parish Expenditure 2013

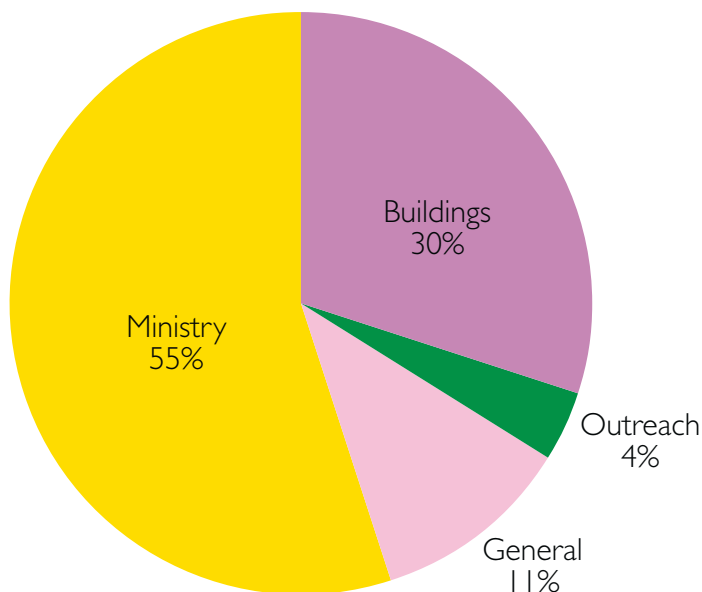


Figure 8 provides a breakdown of parish expenditure in 2013. Whilst actual expenditure in support of ministry fell between 2012 and 2013, the proportion of total expenditure on ministry increased from 52% in 2012 to 55% in 2013. Over the same period the proportion of expenditure on property fell from 34% to 30%. As noted in previous reports, parishes remain committed to outreach, despite other pressures (actual expenditure on outreach increased by £12,000 to just under £1.7 million in 2013).