

Membership And Finances 2009/2010



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 2009 and 2010. The most dramatic figure relates to the fall in the number of Christmas communicants (-23%). However, we had been warned by parishes that the severe weather conditions had had a major effect on Christmas services; 10% of parishes informed us that the Christmas Eucharist service had been cancelled. The more regular measures of attendance (average attendance, Pentecost, Trinity III) show a decline of between 3% and 5%, slightly above the longer-term trend. The figures relating to participation by young people and new members – average attendance under 18, baptisms and confirmations – remain particularly concerning, with further significant declines shown in each of these areas.

Table 1 Provincial Summary of Parish ‘Membership’ for 2009 and 2010

		2009	2010	2011	2009 - 2010		Annual
					+/-	%	Trend *
Communicants	Easter	65,517	62,358	60,827	-3159	-5	-1,486
	Pentecost	35,536	34,326		-1,210	-3	-1055
	Christmas	59,585	46,130		-13,455	-23	-4,064
	Trinity III	34,609	33,048		-1561	-5	-718
Average Attendance - over 18							
	Sundays	36,844	35,028		-1816	-5	-1,037
	Weekdays only	5,400	5,082		-318	-6	-134
Average Attendance - under 18		5,438	5,067		-371	-7	-434
Electoral Roll		58,136	57,207		-929	-2	-2,576
Baptisms		8,034	7,787		-247	-3	-78
Confirmations		1,690	1,500		-190	-11	-98
Weddings		3,492	3,518		26	1	-95
Funerals		7,742	6,987		-755	-10	-722

* Calculated from data collected for the seven years 2004 to 2010

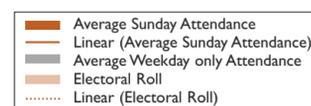


Figure 2 - Attendance & Electoral Roll



Figure 1 - Communicants

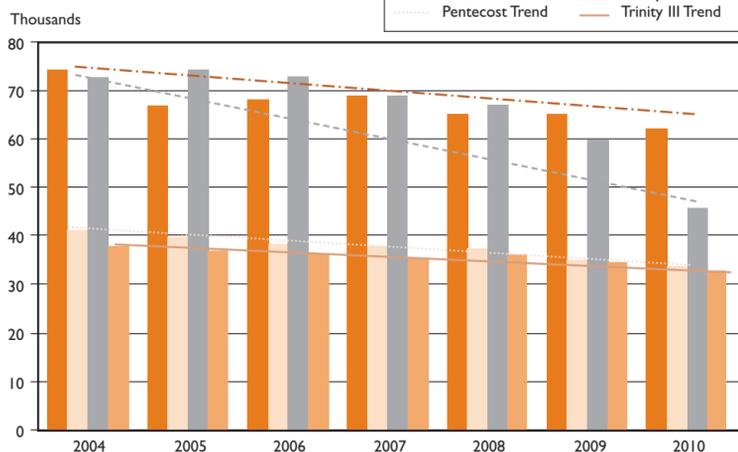
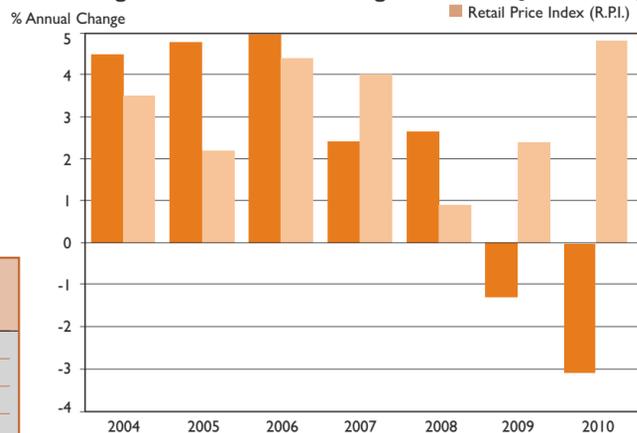


Figure 3 - Total Direct Giving



Finances

Parish Income and Expenditure

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

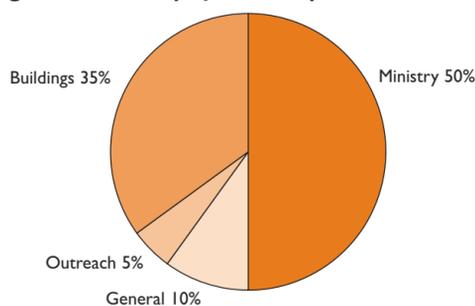
Table 2 Provincial Summary of Parish Finances for 2009 and 2010

INCOME	2009	2010	EXPENDITURE	2009	2010
	£(000)	£(000)		£(000)	£(000)
Planned Giving	11,638	11,447	Parish Share	16,233	16,513
Loose Collections	3,072	2,809	Clerics' Expenses	1,567	1,484
Donations	0	2,412	Other Ministry Support	397	322
For Mission	459	678	Maintenance of Services	1,435	1,278
Tax Refunds	3,017	3,002	General Parish Expenses	2,345	2,243
Legacy Gifts Received	5,033	2,562	Maintenance of Churches	6,153	6,115
Grants	3,912	5,739	Maintenance of Property	2,899	2,719
Money Raising	3,942	4,497	Exceptional Property Expenditure	0	5,397
Fees	4,010	1,951	Parish Grants	1,088	634
Investments	2,500	1,651	Home/World Grants	585	1,255
Other Incoming Resources	0	3,476	Capital Payments	5,719	2,221
			Cost of Money Raising	539	597
TOTAL INCOME	37,583	40,224	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	38,960	40,778

A new finance return was introduced for 2010 which will help provide a much clearer (and more detailed) picture of the financial situation of parishes in the years ahead. The practical effect of this in terms of this report is that from 2010 some financial data in table 2 is presented under different headings from previous reports, which means that year on year comparisons are difficult (or even impossible) to make in some areas this year. (Such comparisons will be far easier to make in next year's report.) However, there are key areas in which comparisons are possible. Total income has risen impressively from the 2009 figure, although for the second year running total parish expenditure exceeded total parish income. (However, the gap narrowed from £1.4 million in 2009 to £0.6 million in 2010.)

The level of direct giving fell further from the previous year (by 3.1%, compared with RPI inflation of 4.8%), but Figures 3 and 4 provide some useful context for this figure. They demonstrate that, on average, church members have increased their individual level of giving each year. Average weekly giving per Sunday attender increased by 1.8% between 2009 and 2010 to £7.79. This represents 2.5% of the average Welsh gross weekly adult income – interestingly the same proportion as in 2007, 2008 and 2009 as giving and average income have fluctuated during difficult years of economic recession. The real problem for parishes as they seek to meet their costs is not the generosity of members, more that in general there are fewer members each year contributing towards those costs. Parish income will also be affected in next year's report as the transitional relief Gift Aid scheme came to an end in April 2011.

Figure 5 - Summary of Parish Expenditure 2010



The Provincial Picture

Table 3 Provincial Income & Expenditure in 2009 and 2010

	Parishes		Diocesan Boards		Representative Body		TOTAL	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
INCOME	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Direct Giving	14.7	14.3	-	-	-	-	14.7	14.3
Other Income	20.4	24.3	-	-	-	-	20.4	24.3
Investments	2.5	1.6	0.4	0.4	16.5	16.4	19.4	18.4
TOTAL	37.6	40.2	0.4	0.4	16.5	16.4	54.5	57.0
EXPENDITURE	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Ministry	18.2	18.3	-	-	11.7	11.8	29.9	30.1
Running Costs	19.1	20.6	0.4	0.4	3.2	3.8	22.7	24.8
Outreach	1.7	1.9	-	-	0.9	0.9	2.6	2.8
TOTAL	39.0	40.8	0.4	0.4	15.8	16.5	55.2	57.7
Balance	-1.4	-0.6	-	-	0.7	-0.1	-0.7	-0.7

Income levels remained depressed for the Representative Body as the difficult investment climate continued. However, the level of the Representative Body's contribution to the ministry costs of the Church increased by £83,000 (39% of the total costs of ministry, as in 2009) as its commitment to increasing the total Block Grant to dioceses by 3% each year until 2014 was maintained. This meant that, at both provincial and parochial level, deficits were incurred in 2010.

The new finance return has enabled parish expenditure to be examined in more detail, and so the allocation to “general” expenditure in fig. 5 has shrunk in 2010. The proportion of parish expenditure spent on ministry has increased from 43% to 50%, and on buildings from 31% to 35%. Expenditure on outreach has also increased slightly (from 4% to 5%).

In last year's report parishes were encouraged to write to MPs in support of the continuation of the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme, which was due to be discontinued in March 2011. We are pleased to be able to report that this Scheme has been extended, albeit in a reduced form.

