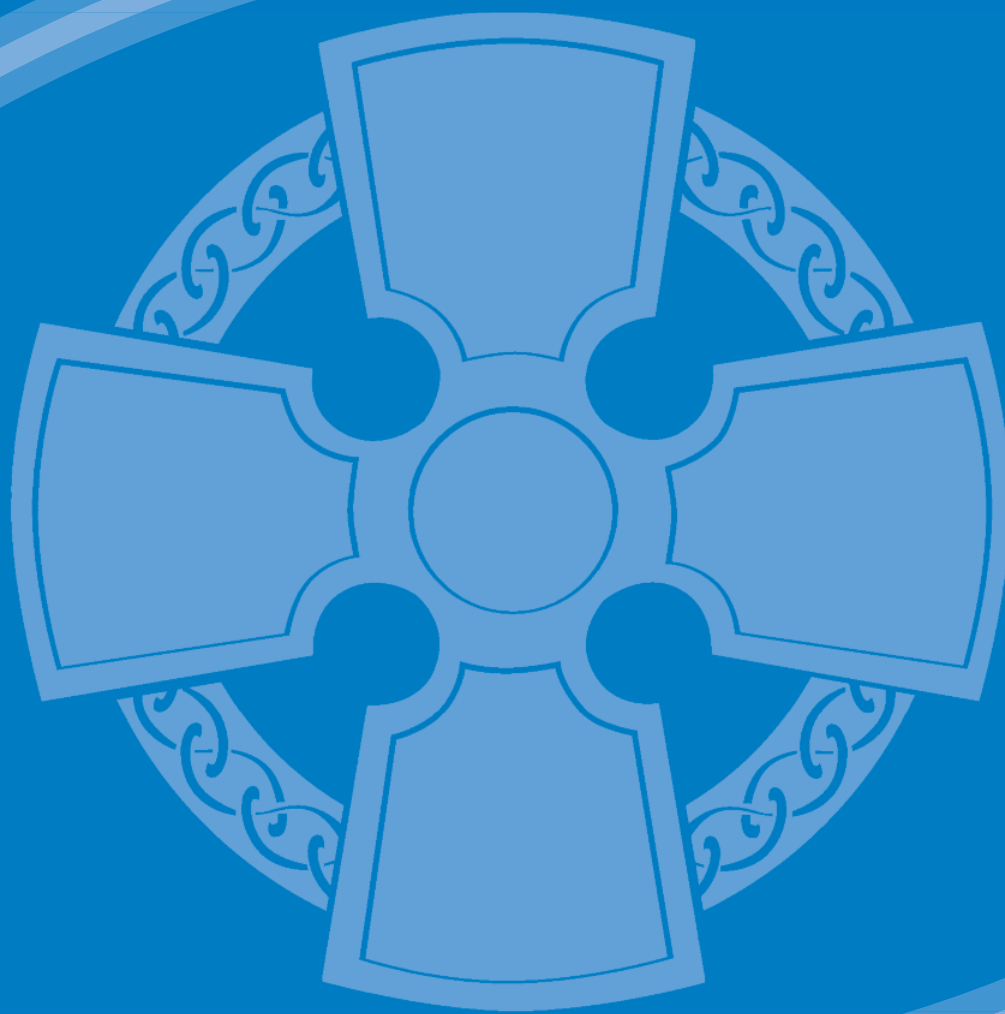


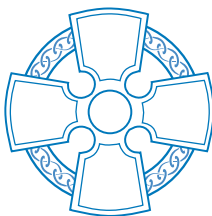
# The Church in Wales

## Membership and Finances

### 2011

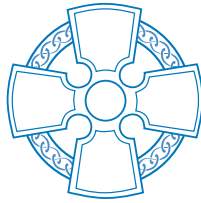


YR EGLWYS  
YNG NGHYMRU



THE CHURCH  
IN WALES

Y R E G L W Y S  
Y N G N G H Y M R U



THE CHURCH  
IN WALES

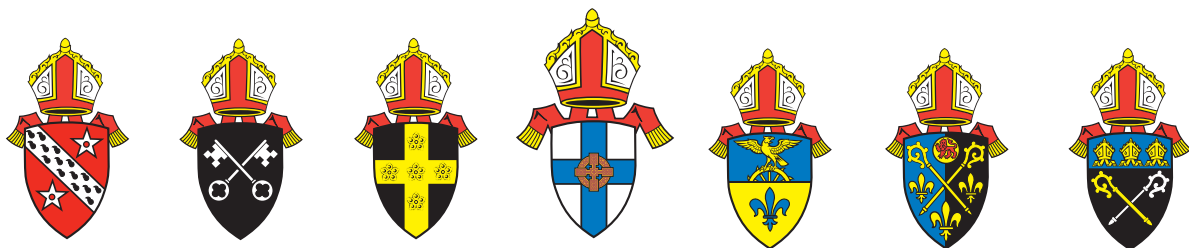
Welcome to the Church in Wales Membership and Finances report for 2011, which this year is produced in a new format to provide space for new charts and greater analysis. We hope that the Governing Body and other church members will find this year's report useful, and are grateful to clergy and parish officers for providing the figures contained in this report via the annual parish return. Because of the efforts of parishes across Wales, we are able to produce a provincial report for the previous year's figures in time for the September Governing Body meeting based on a 90% return, something that very few UK churches are able to do.

But first, a health warning. Statistics alone cannot provide a comprehensive picture of church life in Wales. It must always be borne in mind that these are provincial total figures, which do not highlight local or diocesan variations. It is also not possible to include in this report the many positive stories about the Church's work in communities across Wales, nor measure the impact of the Church's ministry in people's lives.

However, these figures do provide a detailed set of statistics about levels of participation in church life and the financial situation at a parish level. With the introduction of a new finance return in 2011 and a new membership return this year it will be possible in future years to provide an even more detailed picture. Dioceses are able to access a complete set of statistics for every parish, deanery and archdeaconry. This information is of crucial importance in helping dioceses and provincial bodies to plan and set priorities for the future, in addition to providing information at a local level to enable Archdeacons and diocesan officers to target assistance to parishes and deaneries.

This document plays a key role also in informing Governing Body debates – an indication of the state of the Church to be taken into account when making significant decisions about the Church's future. For this reason it is important for Governing Body members to debate the statistics when they are disappointing as well as when the figures are reassuring.

This year, we have provided extended, twenty-year trends for attendances and occasional offices. We have also provided greater analysis of the changing ways in which parishes spend their money, and a new explanation of how the Church in Wales is funded.



# Membership

**Table I: Participation in Parish Life for 2011 and 2010**

		2011	2010	2011-2010	+/- %
Communicants	Easter	60,924	62,436	-1,512	-2
	Pentecost	32,084	34,295	-2,211	-6
	Christmas	58,213	45,938	12,275	+27
	Trinity III	31,620	32,991	-1,371	-4
Average Attendance - over 18	Sundays	33,869	34,717	-848	-2
	Weekdays only	4,347	5,004	-657	-13
Average Attendance - under 18		5,769	5,075	694	+14
Electoral Roll		56,549	57,165	-616	-1
Baptisms		7,232	7,795	-563	-7
Confirmations		1,337	1,510	-173	-11
Weddings		3,350	3,495	-145	-4
Funerals		6,702	6,998	-296	-4

The concept of “Membership” in the Church in Wales has always proved difficult to define, with claims 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, with average Sunday attendance providing a more reliable guide to usual attendance. Electoral Roll figures have also been used to demonstrate the number in each community with a demonstrable connection to the work of the parish.

## The Picture for 2011 compared with 2010

Table I sets out a comparison of key attendance figures for 2011 and 2010. At this level, there are few significant differences between 2011 and 2010. Certain year-on-year trends continue:

- Seasonal fluctuations in the number of communicants at key festivals;
- A small decline in the average attendance and Electoral Roll (typically 2-4 % per annum);
- A steeper decline in the number of baptisms and (particularly) confirmations.

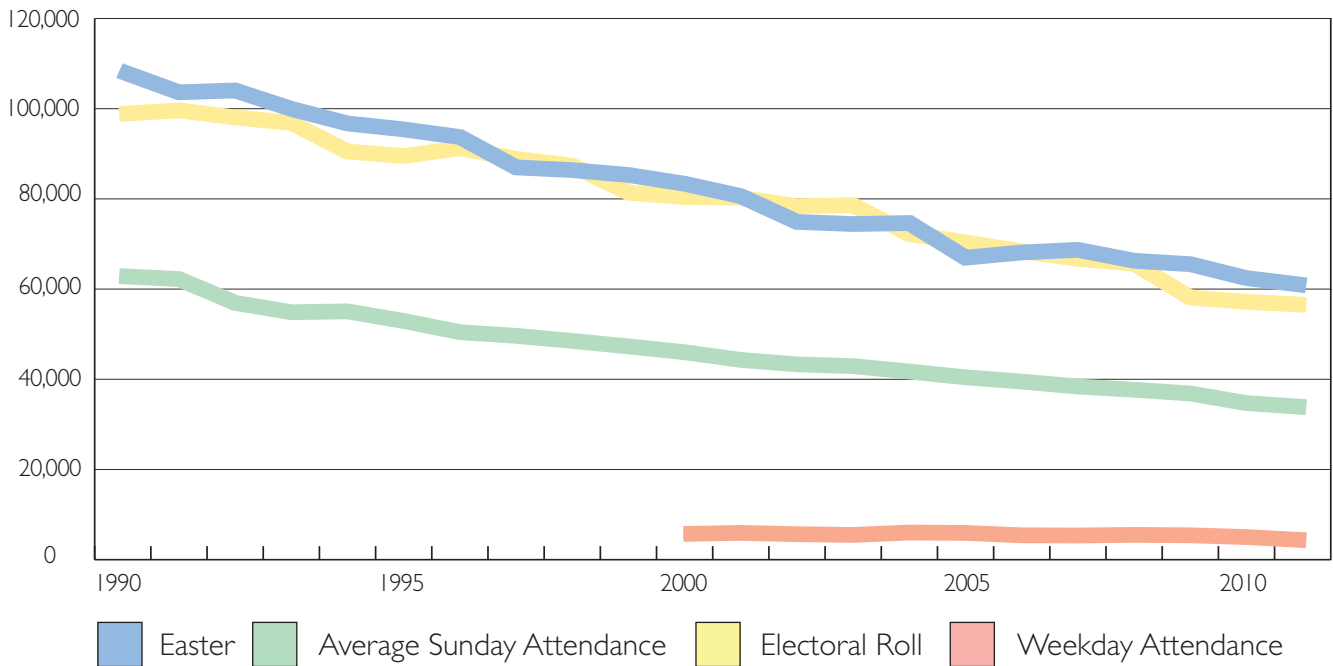
Three figures stand out in the comparison. First, the number of Christmas communicants is significantly (27%) higher in 2011 than in 2010.

However, adverse weather conditions in the winter of 2010 had a major effect on Christmas services in 2010, with many parishes telling us that services had been cancelled altogether. A more reliable comparator for the 2011 figure is the figure for 2009 – 59,585.

Secondly, average weekday attendance (over 18) has fallen sharply between 2010 and 2011, whilst average under 18 attendance has risen significantly. The first figure has remained remarkably steady since it was first collected in 2000, whereas the second has traditionally documented decline.

There is no obvious explanation for these anomalies, and for this reason it is important not to read too much into what are only one year figures. Should the trends continue next year, they will be material. It is also worth noting that the new Membership questionnaire used for this year’s return might have influenced this year’s figures. For example, specific questions this year about average attendance by different age groups, replacing a children’s questionnaire, might have encouraged clergy to include groups of young people which had not been included in previous returns.

**Figure I: Attendance and Electoral Roll**



### Long-term Trends: 1990 to 2011

Membership and Finance statistics are held from 1990, and Figure I provides an illustration of the change in four key parameters during this period (although weekday attendance figures have been collected only since 2000).

Easter communicants, average Sunday attendance and Electoral Roll membership have fallen by close to 50% in the last twenty years, and the “high point” figure for each year (Easter communicants) was lower in 2011 than the average Sunday attendance figure in 1990.

However, the average weekday attendance figure – this year’s unexpected decline notwithstanding – has remained remarkably steady since 2000, and we hope to have more figures relating to participation in church life outside traditional Sunday worship in future reports.

### Reasons to be Cheerful

From this year, parishes have been asked to provide estimates for average monthly attendance at Other Acts of Worship, and to give examples of that activity. This is a deliberately broad category intended to catch

interesting developments in the way in which parishes approach worship, particularly those intended to reach those in the community unused to traditional forms of worship. These are sometimes called Fresh Expressions, but may also be developments of traditional activities. Although still at an early stage, we have already received some exciting reports from parishes across the Province.

Not including one-off services, it is estimated that some 3,200 people attend “other acts of worship” on a monthly basis in the Church in Wales, and some examples of other approaches to worship reported by parishes are:

- Cafe style worship;
- Healing services;
- Pet and other animal blessing services;
- Discipleship groups;
- Songs of Praise/Cymanfa Ganu;
- Music projects for children;
- Celtic services.

There are also examples across the Province of excellent projects involving young people, such as the YES (Youth Eucharistic Service) project in the diocese of Monmouth.

## Case Study – Youth Eucharistic Service (YES)

The Youth Eucharistic Service grew from a desire for services that would appeal to young people. The first YES was held on 7 March 2004 and has since developed into a regular series of events each year – three or four YES services annually with YES Days in between. These multimedia, multi-sensory services are ‘owned’ by the young people, with every possible aspect being enacted by them. Worship is expressed through the mediums of music, drama, mime, dance and poetry, and each YES is different so that interest and excitement is kept alive. YES has also held successful Lent events in the diocese of Monmouth: in Blackwood in 2010; and in

Newport, Chepstow and Trevethin in 2012. YES is not only about young people – a key objective is to bring together different generations through worship.



The YES community is always evolving with young people growing up and going away to university and careers, but at all times there are about 50 young people in YES from across the diocese. The young people can be in the worship group, the drama group or they can be stewards or be part of the technical team.

Figure 2: Marriages, Funerals, Baptisms and Confirmations

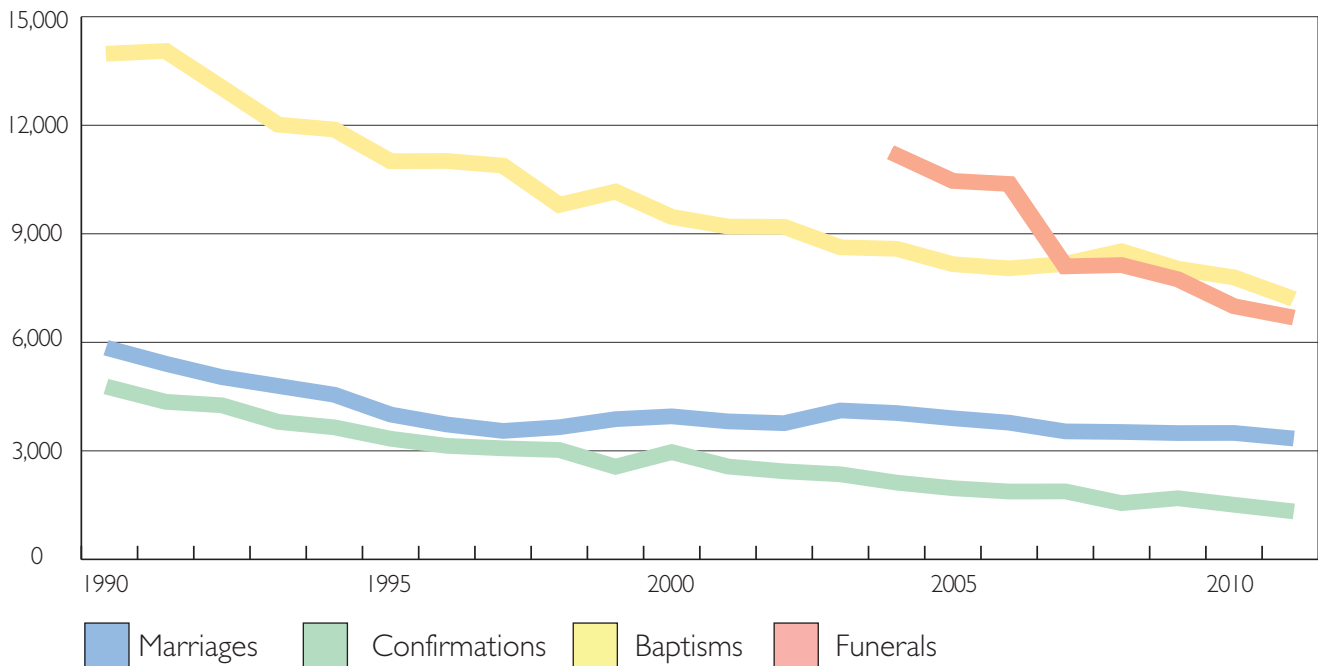


Figure 2 shows changes in participation in two aspects of Church life. One aspect (Marriages, Funerals) are those occasional offices which are often opportunities for the Church to engage with the wider community at times of great joy or great sorrow. The other (Baptism, Confirmation) are those elements of Christian initiation that provide an indicator of new growth, particularly among young people. Again, the trends are shown from 1990 to 2011 (although statistics for

funerals have only been gathered since 2004).

Of these four categories, only the number of marriages has held up reasonably well (particularly since 2000), despite “competition” from other licensed venues. Of particular concern is the steep decline in the number of baptisms (from 13,982 in 1990 to 7,232 in 2011) and confirmations (from 4,754 to 1,337), and what that might mean for the future life of the Church in Wales.

## Finances

**Table 2: Provincial Summary of Parish Finances for 2011 and 2010**

INCOME (£000s)	2011	2010	EXPENDITURE (£000s)	2011	2010
Planned Giving	11,877	11,300	Parish Share	16,914	16,474
Loose Collections	2,734	2,849	Clerics' Expenses	1,426	1,477
Donations	2,953	2,490	Other Ministry Support	384	306
For Mission	693	720	Maintenance of Services	1,245	1,261
Tax Refunds	2,944	2,948	General Parish Expenses	2,229	2,220
Legacy Gifts Received	1,378	2,470	Maintenance of Churches	5,428	6,213
Grants	4,914	6,094	Maintenance of Property	2,019	2,557
Money Raising	4,961	4,534	Exceptional Property Expenditure	5,469	5,653
Fees	1,790	1,776	Parish Grants	534	606
Investments	1,551	1,652	Home/World Grants	1,166	1,300
Other Incoming Resources	3,614	3,702	Capital Payments	3,074	2,587
			Cost of Money Raising	628	603
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>39,409</b>	<b>40,535</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>40,516</b>	<b>41,257</b>

Table 2 provides a comparison of parish income and expenditure for 2011 and 2010. Overall, total income and total expenditure have fallen on 2010 levels, and the gap between expenditure and income has widened since 2010 from £722,000 to £1,107,000. However, if we look further at the detail behind those headline figures, there are some interesting developments.

First, planned giving increased significantly – by 5.1%. This is a tremendous achievement by church members, especially during a time of severe prolonged economic recession and insecurity. Further analysis of members' giving is provided in Figures 3 and 4 (overleaf). This increase corresponds with the level of the increase in expenditure on parish share.

Secondly, the amount of tax reclaimed on giving fell very slightly during 2011. However, it must be borne in mind that Gift Aid Transitional Relief was withdrawn by the Government on 31 March 2011. This provision had been introduced in 2008 as a temporary scheme to

help charities claiming tax relief on donations via Gift Aid adapt to a loss of income following the reduction of the standard rate of income tax from 22p in the pound to 20p. The withdrawal of the scheme has had some impact on tax reclaim income for 2011, but it has held up remarkably well in the circumstances. The Representative Body is involved in ongoing discussions between charities and the Treasury/HMRC on ways to make Gift Aid a more effective tool for the reclaim of tax relief on charitable donations, and the loss of transitional relief will be one of a number of issues raised at those meetings.

Thirdly, grant income fell significantly (by 19% on the 2010 figure), and the effect of this reduction may be seen in the fall in parish expenditure on church buildings and exceptional property expenditure. A reduction in the amount of grants available via CADW of £500,000 may have had a knock-on effect on the ability, and willingness, of parishes to undertake large-scale building projects.

**Figure 3: Weekly Direct Giving per Sunday Attender**



### Direct Giving

After two years in which total direct giving fell, and in which weekly direct giving per Sunday attender increased by small margins (see Figure 3), 2011 saw an impressive rise in the level of direct giving per attender. £8.26 per Sunday attender marks a 5.8% increase on the 2010 figure, and is a testament to the continued generosity and commitment of church members trying to meet increasing costs with fewer numbers. It represents 2.6% of the average Welsh gross weekly adult income (the figure for 2007-2010 was 2.5%).

What other factors might help explain this increase at such a difficult time? One telling development in recent years is the increased

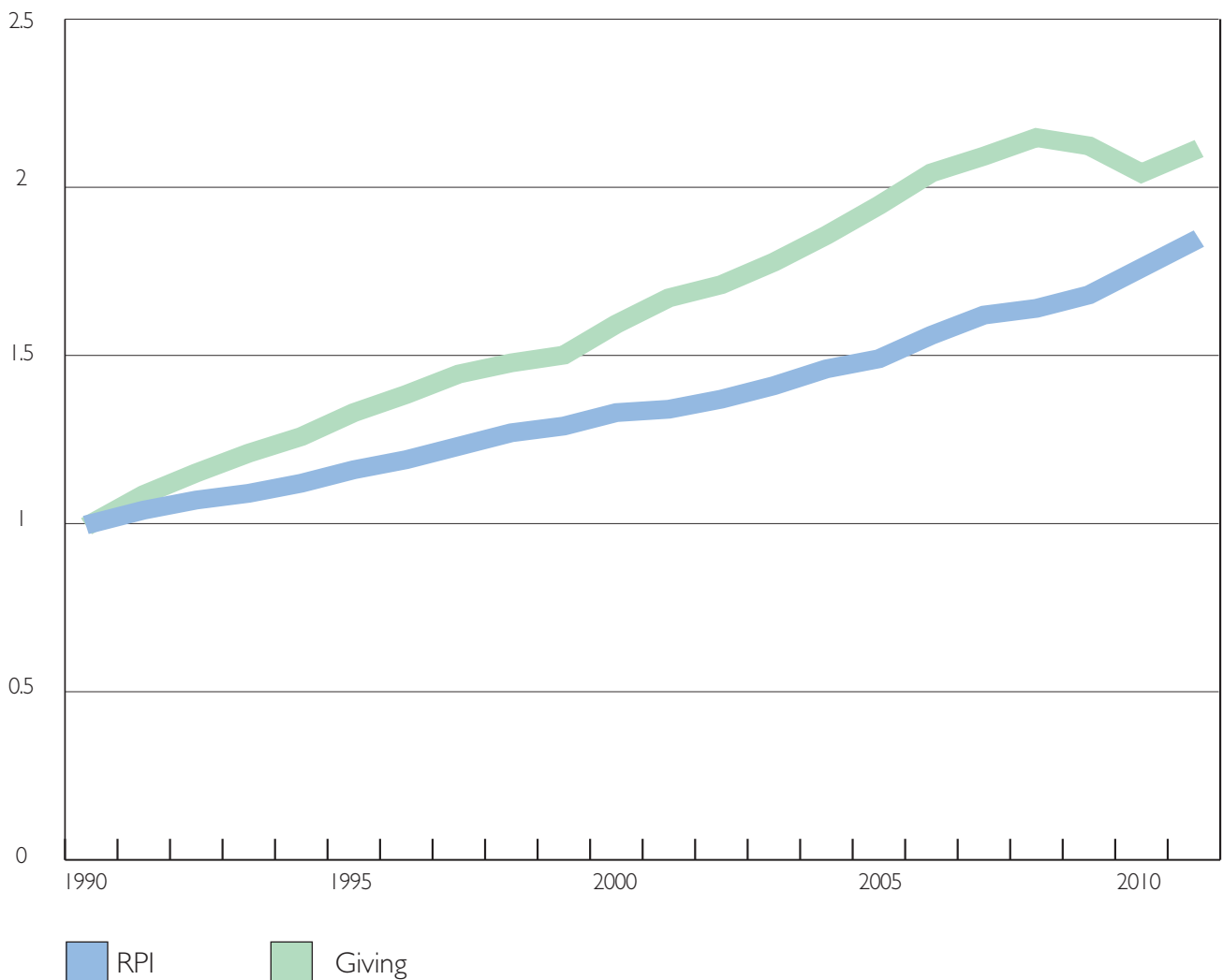
take-up of the provincial Gift Direct scheme. Gift Direct is a facility provided to parishes free of charge by the Representative Body, through which members may give via direct debit and the total gift (including tax reclaim where applicable) is paid monthly into the nominated parish account.

In addition to reducing the administrative burden on parish treasurers and Gift Aid secretaries, the scheme offers financial benefits to parishes. First, parishes receive a regular monthly income (including tax reclaim) regardless of whether or not the donor attended church. Secondly, figures show that Gift Direct donors give more than average - £9.72 per donor per week.

The generosity of church members is illustrated further in Figure 4. Starting with a notional gift of £1 in 1990, the chart shows the effect of applying an RPI increase on the gift each year, compared with the actual increase in giving by church members.

The final figures for 2011 are £1.84 (RPI) and £2.11 (actual giving increase). Over that period total direct giving has increased from £6,928,000 in 1990 to £14,610,000 in 2011. Total direct giving declined between 2008-9 and 2009-10 and, despite the increase in 2010/11, still lies below the 2008 peak.

**Figure 4: Changes in Direct Giving Compared with the Retail Price Index (Based on a £1 Donation in 1990)**





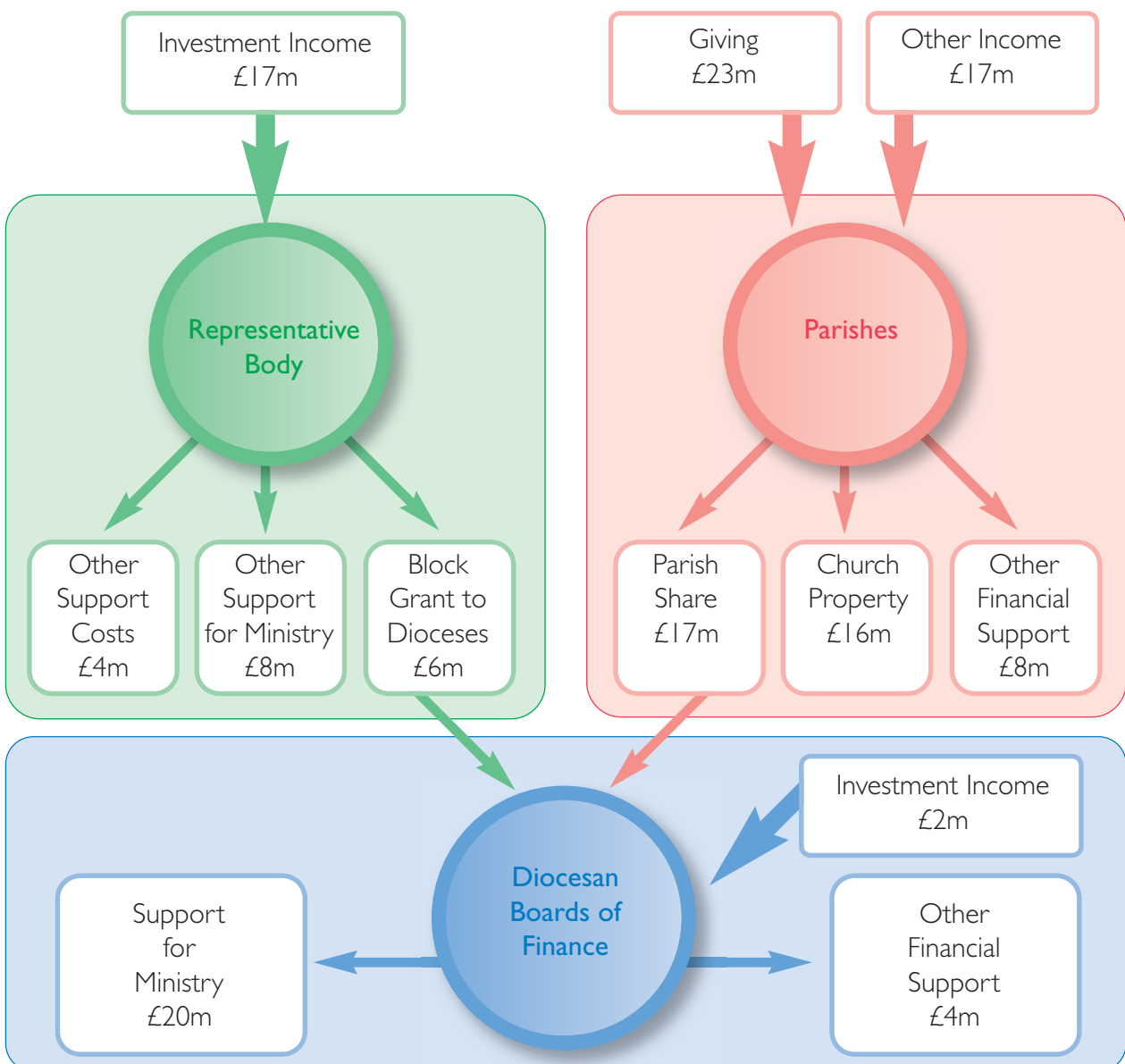
## How is the Church in Wales Funded?

Parishes play a major – and ever increasing – role in helping to meet the costs of running the Church in Wales. However, it is perhaps worth providing further explanation of how the parishes' contribution fits into the broader provincial picture. Figure 5 (below) is a diagrammatic representation of the way in which the Church in Wales is funded. Dioceses are responsible for meeting the cost of clergy stipends, and receive funds from both the parishes (via Parish Share) and Representative Body (via the Block Grant) for this purpose. However, this is not the only area of

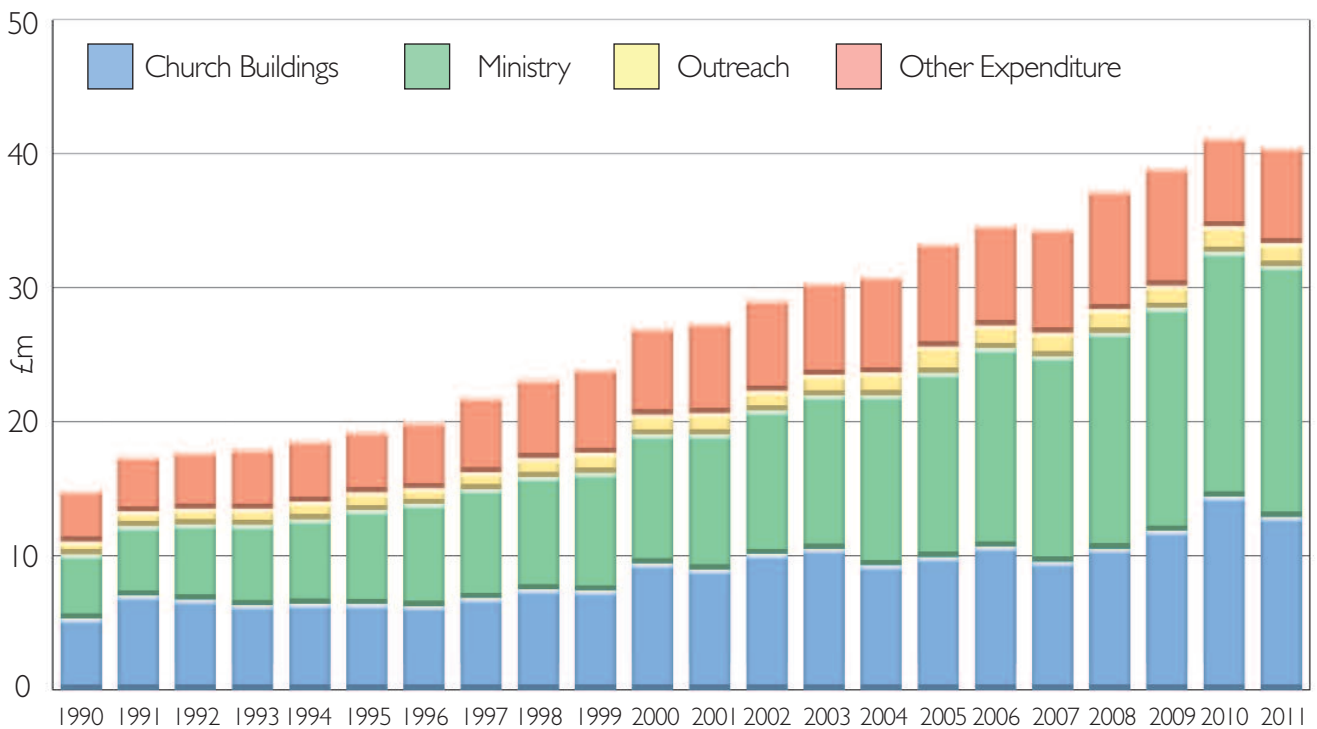
expenditure, and the diagram illustrates the contribution made by all three groups to funding different parts of the Church's activities.

Members will note that both the parishes and Representative Body are currently spending more than they receive in income. The main component in the Representative Body's "Other Support for Ministry" is the cost of the past-service element of the Clergy Pension Scheme. "Other Financial Support" by parishes includes other support for ministry (clergy expenses, cost of services) not included in parish share.

Figure 5: How the Church in Wales is Funded 2011



**Figure 6: Total Parish Expenditure since 1990**



**How do Parishes Spend their Money?**

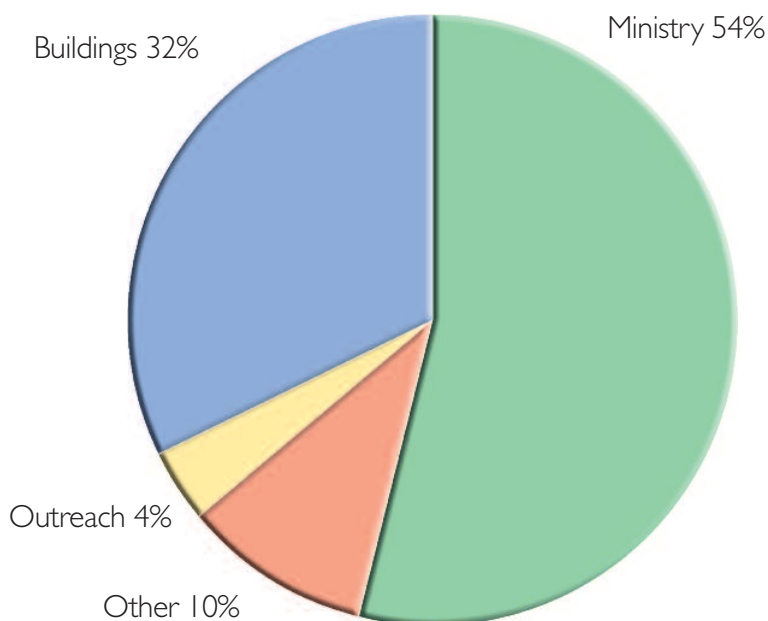
Figure 6 shows how parishes have spent funds over the period 1990 to 2011. Whilst the total expenditure has risen, the proportions spent on different items have also changed.

In 1990 the largest proportion of parish

expenditure was on buildings.

However, since then expenditure on ministry costs has increased at a faster rate than expenditure on buildings, and by 1995 parishes were spending more on ministry than on buildings. Total parish expenditure in 1990 was £14,909,000 compared to £40,516,000 in 2011.

**Figure 7: Parish Expenditure 2011**



**Parish Expenditure in 2011**

Figure 7 provides a different view of parish expenditure in 2011. In line with the trend identified in Figure 6, the proportion of expenditure on ministry increased from 50% in 2010 to 54% in 2011, whilst expenditure on buildings fell as a proportion from 35% to 32%. The two major factors contributing to this trend may be found in Table 2: ministry costs continue to rise, and the fall in grant income has had a significant effect on expenditure on buildings projects.