

Annual Report 2016

We have had a challenging year of change and I want to thank everyone across our Diocese for the extraordinary progress we have made. As we begin to lift the constraining cloud of financial deficit, we become freer to more fully serve God and the people of Suffolk. This has needed all of us to play our part, the staff of the Diocesan Office have borne huge changes to reduce central costs, and parishes and benefices have been working hard to meet the parish share. I am immensely heartened by this growing sense of working together.

All these relationships – diocese and benefice, clergy and laity, rural and urban, and most important, church and community – interweave with our relationship with God. They are inseparable. Fundamentally, the challenges we have been facing, and will continue to face, are spiritual. Financial prudence and scrutiny, accountability and transparency are all crucial of course. But the animation for all of this is spiritual, it is about our relationship with God. Attending to that enables the rest to happen. Our relationship to God, our spiritual lives, lead us to mission which leads us into the right relationship with money. It doesn't work the other way round.

And that is what we have seen happening. People across the Diocese have been putting these in the right order: God – mission – money. For too long it has been the other way round and money – or its lack – has shaped mission and God is a distant third. Let's all work on getting this the right way round, trusting first in God and the cloud will then disperse.



+ Martin

The Rt Revd Martin Seeley
Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Reforming the Diocesan finances

2016 saw the first significant steps towards balancing the diocesan budget. This represents an enormous task in the short to medium term, the achievement of which depends on a reshaping of how we provide support from the centre of the Diocese and the encouragement of enhanced giving around the parishes.

Key to this has been the development of and engagement with the diocesan vision of Growing in God, with its four strategic priorities of growing in depth, number, influence and younger. By sharing exactly what it is that God is calling us to, enables us to be clear in the development of our resources to enable that vision to be funded and supported. The often-asked question 'Where does our money go?' is more obviously and clearly answered when we all share the same sense of God's call upon us as a Diocese.

The 2016 year-end shows that we have made significant inroads into the task ahead. There is still much to be done, but we can be confident that our plans are achievable given the sustained generosity of the people of the Diocese and the good stewardship of those at the centre.

Our full report and financial statement for 2016 is available to view online www.cofesuffolk.org



Ian

The Venerable Ian Morgan
Chairman, Diocesan Board of Finance

Lay Ministry
165 Readers
520 Elders
9 Ministers



91% of Parish Share requested was received

292 Church building improvements approved



749 Marriages
61 Blessing services

15,000 pupils receiving a distinctly Christian education



87 Church Schools

25% of all schools in Suffolk are Church Schools



1,262 Baptisms

146 Confirmations

Ordained Ministry



106 Stipendiary Clergy
56 Self-supporting Clergy
12 Curates
3 House for Duty
246 Clergy with Permission to Officiate

2,374 Funeral services

Number of people attending church



19,222
Electoral roll



49,233
Christmas services



21,812
Easter services



14,511
Weekly worship

Income breakdown:

£8,681,000

Parish Share: **73.3%**

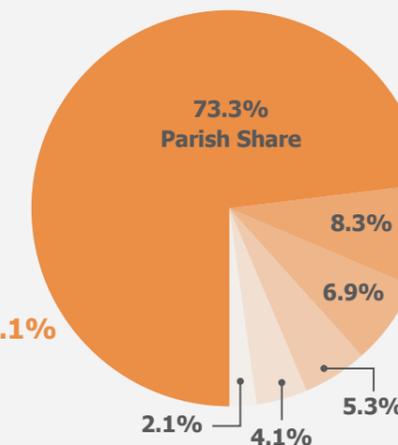
Archbishops Council: **8.3%**

Charitable activities: **6.9%**

Investment income: **5.3%**

Rental income and trading: **4.1%**

Other donations: **2.1%**



Total Income:
£8,681,000
Total Expenditure:
£9,089,000
Church activities across the Diocese

Annual Report 2016
FACTS & FIGURES

Growing in God