

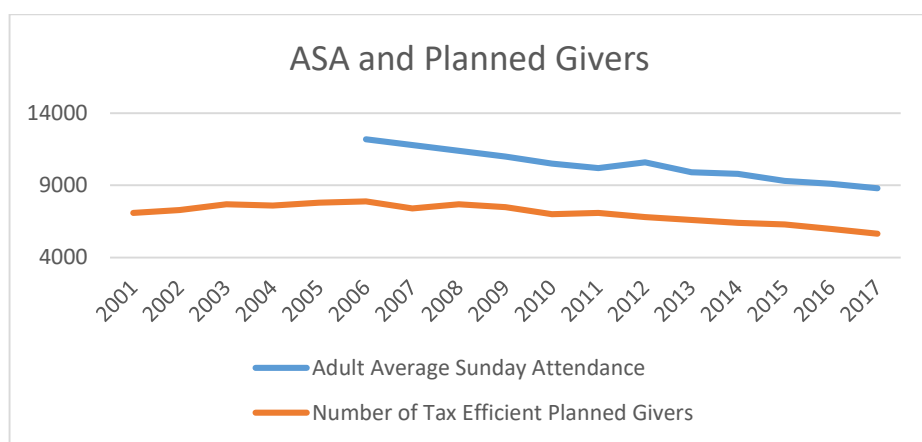
**WORCESTER DIOCESAN SYNOD
WORCESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE**

ORDER PAPER I

Item 2: Written Answer to Question:

Robert Barbour (Kidderminster Deanery) to ask: “Can the Diocesan Secretary explain the demographic evidence that underlies a) the optimistic scenario and b) the pessimistic scenario in Section A of Document DS 19/5”

The Diocese of Worcester has seen a consistent decline in Adult Average Sunday Attendance (the most significant measure of attendance in relation to giving) averaging a reduction of 2.9% each year since 2006; and in the number of Tax Efficient Planned Givers averaging a drop of 3.5% per annum since 2010.



Modelling Assumptions:

- i) The **core assumption** is that number of planned givers per week will decline at 2.5% per annum. This is a slower rate of decline than we've seen over the past seven years (-3.5%) as it assumes that the Parish Giving Scheme launch will enable more people to give regularly, and that our Resourcing Churches and Calling Young Disciples projects will achieve 80% of their ambition for new disciples, of whom 33% will join planned giving schemes by 2025 and 67% by 2030. (there will be fewer new givers than new disciples since some will give as couples.)
- ii) The **optimistic assumption** is that givers will still decline, but only by 1% (PGS and projects more successful or churches are effective in bringing in new members).
- iii) The **pessimistic assumption** is that the number of givers declines by 4%, slightly worse than the last seven year average, but an improvement on the declines of more than 5% shown in 2016 and 2017.
- iv) No explicit modelling of ages was carried out, although the age skew of our parish attendances is an inherent factor in the decline in congregations and the number of givers.