



20 Annual Report 18

2018
Income
£8,901,000
TOTAL

71.4%
Parish Share

	%
Charitable Activities	7.2
Investments	6.0
Archbishops' Council	3.8
Other Trading	3.6
Other Donations	2.4
Other Income	5.6

2018
Expenditure
£8,334,000
TOTAL

61.7%
Parochial Ministry

	%
Charitable Activities	11.6
Support Costs	10.5
Other Mission and Ministry	14.3
Raising Funds	1.9



+ Martin

The Rt Revd Martin Seeley
Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

What has struck me most about the past year is the rising sense of hopefulness throughout the Diocese - hope for the church, hope for more people coming to faith, and hope for making a difference for good in our communities.

There are many elements that have fostered this hope, particularly the ways in which together we are engaged in community programmes; lunch clubs, schools, youth outreach, foodbanks, and the countless other ways in which we show and share Christ's love.

We are investing in this hopefulness in many ways, including in the development of ministry, lay and ordained. It was an immense joy to ordain the first 18 people on our Auxiliary Ordination Pathway (AOP),

alongside six who had undertaken national training programmes. Ten more people started the AOP in 2018 and I am praying that we continue to expand both this and the new range of lay ministry training programmes that complement our existing ordained and lay ministry pathways. I see the proliferation of these ministries as providing the focal point across the Diocese to build up our congregations and community presence.

Part of Christian living is giving back in gratitude from that which we have received. Our finances continue to be a challenge and the shortfall in income can only be addressed by increased giving. Almost three-quarters of our income came directly from parishes and benefices as Parish Share, so Bishop Mike and I were grateful that virtually all stipendiary clergy engaged in teaching about giving and Christian

faithfulness, and we asked them all to hold a stewardship campaign within the year. The Parish Giving Scheme introduced this year has benefitted other dioceses and I am encouraged how this has been taken up so far and look forward to more parishes and donors joining the scheme.

Archdeacon Ian served as Interim Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance for much longer than we thought would be needed, and I am immensely grateful for Ian carrying this additional responsibility. He and I were thrilled that Mark Pendlington became the permanent chair of the DBF in June, and we have already benefitted from his gracious wisdom and wide-ranging experience. His acceptance of this role is a great gift to the Diocese.

The Diocese received a huge boost towards the end of the year when the Church Commissioners awarded us a grant of £4.95m to strengthen our mission in rural communities and Ipswich, via two focused projects. I am delighted that we have already started to see the benefits under the leadership of our two new Archdeacons, Sally Gaze and Rhiannon King, and that these projects are developing their own hopeful momentum.

What those outside the church see of the church is us; how we live our lives and how we are working for the good of others. We do so to the glory of God in the name of Jesus Christ who teaches us to love God, love our neighbour, and love one another. That is the foundation of our hope, and why it can only grow.

2018 was an exciting and challenging time for the diocese and, having joined you as Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance in June, I am delighted to be part of the team and to be working with you. For those not already aware, the Diocesan Board of Finance are the Trustees and Directors for the administrative body of the Church of England in Suffolk and members of the Bishop's Council.

Wherever you are in this beautiful diocese, we are all part of a special and committed team, and while many are not necessarily comfortable when praised or thanked - preferring to keep on 'doing' - the Annual Report offers me the moment to reflect and give thanks for each individual contribution. Be it through worship, fundraising or time devoted in so many other ways to helping secure the future of the Church, this is the moment to say a heartfelt 'thank you'.

Financial support is fundamental to our ability to survive, thrive and be flourishing congregations making a difference, and I am fortunate to have inherited an improving financial position compared to recent years. Our costs are under control and we are determined to eliminate our deficit, which is already reducing. We will maintain a relentless focus on ensuring that money so generously given to us, is used wisely, by investing in those projects and initiatives that matter to us the most and provide the best support for mission and ministry.

We never forget that the money we spend is hard-earned, most especially that which comes from the Parish Share - thank you for the contributions you made. We will continue to be transparent in earning your trust and confidence in the way we spend and invest these funds.

Throughout Suffolk I have seen first-hand how our Church is at the heart of community life, supporting and nurturing people in rural and urban areas. We are here to help make Suffolk the best place in the UK to live, work and visit; and we are also here to help tackle some of the county's most serious challenges - which include some of the worst deprivation in the UK, right on our doorstep. Our mission and ministry is never shy to lead by example, and we are truly blessed in our Clergy team, as we are with the wonderful volunteers who give so freely of their time and experience. Together, we are the largest voluntary organisation in Suffolk, and I would say the most informed and influential too! We have the privilege of being able to shape lives and communities, as well as grow our precious Church, for the good of everyone.

I look forward to us continuing to work together, to welcoming many more to our services and activities, and to securing the long-term future of our Church, for the Glory of God.



Mark Pendlington

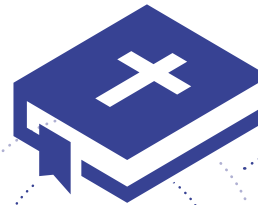
Mark Pendlington
Chair, Board of Trustees



The Diocese is dedicated to supporting and nurturing Church Schools as we follow the Church of England's vision for education, a vision that is deeply Christian, serving the common good. At its heart is the promise by Jesus of 'life in all its fullness'.

To achieve this, we support our church schools with: teacher training in religious education and collective worship; advice and support for Headteachers; school governor appointments; helping with Headteacher appointments; support for schools going through school

inspections and assistance with building maintenance, repair and capital projects to improve facilities in our voluntary aided schools. This year we are continuing to develop our support for small schools and providing a resilience (well-being) programme for schools.



15,000

Pupils receiving distinctly Christian education
87 church schools of which 18 are in our Multi-Academy Trust



Ordained Ministry

229 Clergy with Permission to Officiate
104 Stipendiary Clergy
61 Self-supporting Ministers
13 Curates
5 House for Duty



Lay Ministry

629 Total
136 Readers
482 Elders
11 Licensed Lay Ministers

Church Building Improvements

415 Cases
36% increase from last year
152 Repairs and 'List B' cases
263 Church Building faculty cases (including 29 kitchen and toilets)



292 Church building improvements approved



89.4% of Parish Share requested was received

92 Parishes signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme
438 Donors signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme



1,048 total
933 Baptisms under 13 years old
83 Baptisms over 13 years old
32 Thanksgivings



644 total
594 weddings
50 blessings



2,251 Funeral services

Number of people attending church



18,021

Electoral Roll



39,281

Christmas services



19,444

Easter Day services



12,295

Average weekly worship
Adults: 10,990 | Children 1,305