

2018 update – evaluating the Renewal and Reform Programme

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Research and Statistics

Purpose of the Research and Statistics team

To support the mission of the Church of England by working to ensure that high quality data are collected and appropriately used in decision making at local, regional, and national level.

Current R&S People 2018

6.7 staff – currently 6.....



Plus 1.6 posts (currently 1....) within the team, funded separately by the Church Commissioners, responsible for maintaining the parish boundaries and other formal mapping functions.

R&R – baseline measures

The Archbishops' Council has approved the following measures, each of which is a proxy for an aspect of the flourishing of the Church:

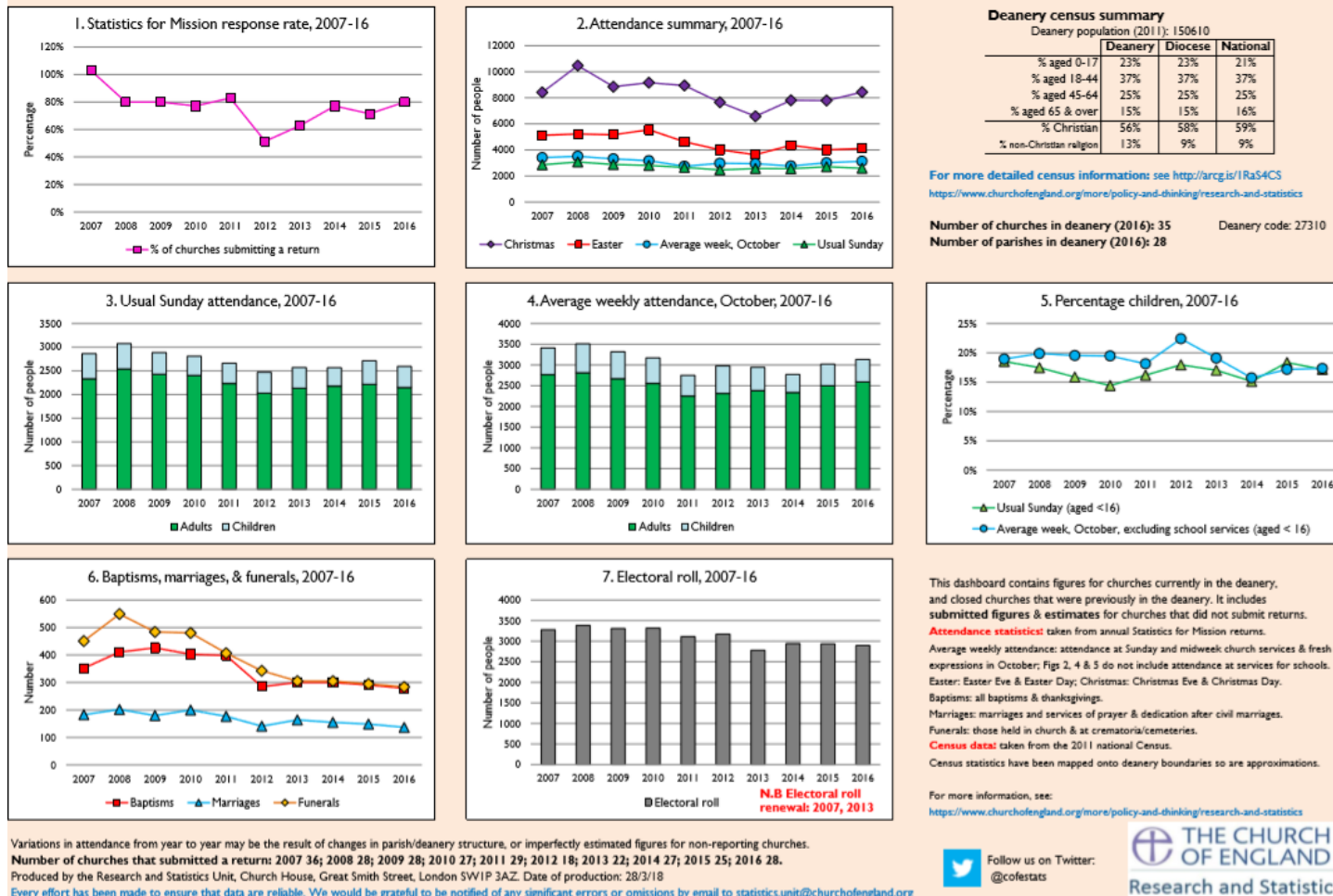
- Attendance and attendance trends
- Age profile of the church
- Range of attendance across the country
- Number of churches
- Numbers of ministers and ordinations
- Baptisms and confirmations
- Financial giving

Statistics for Mission

– essential to R&R for attendance measures

- **What we do:**
 - Collect annual attendance and affiliation data from churches.
- **What this involves:**
 - data collection,
 - liaison with dioceses,
 - quality assurance, estimation for missing data, analysis and reporting.
 - Work to improve statistical rigour and interpretation.
- **What is new?**
 - Deanery dashboards with estimates
 - Online data entry system improved with ‘tabs’

Example output – Deanery dashboards – including estimates



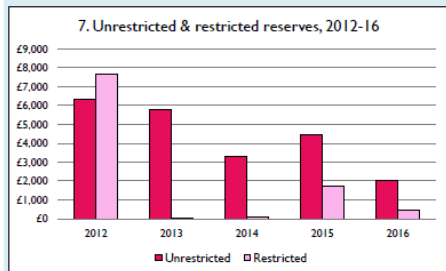
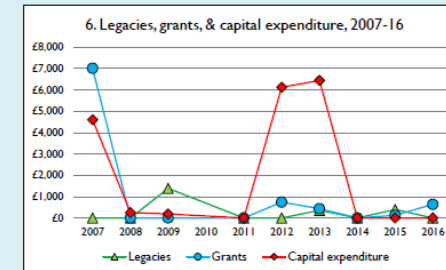
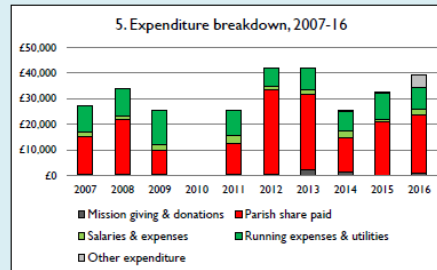
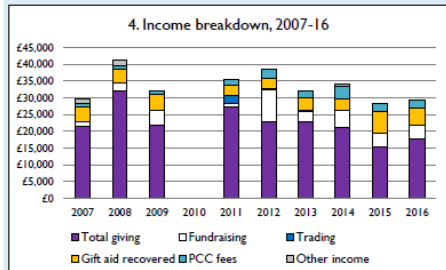
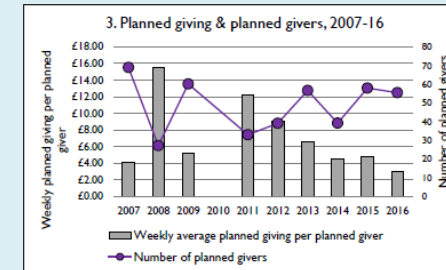
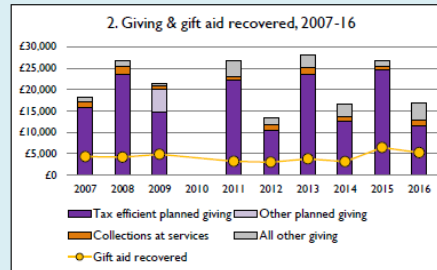
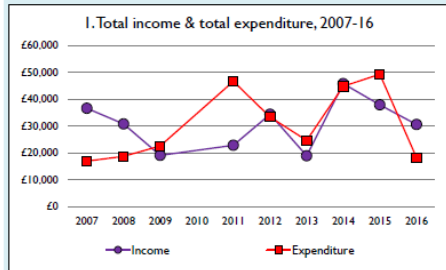
Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in parish/deanery structure, or imperfectly estimated figures for non-reporting churches.
Number of churches that submitted a return: 2007 36; 2008 28; 2009 28; 2010 27; 2011 29; 2012 18; 2013 22; 2014 27; 2015 25; 2016 28.
Produced by the Research and Statistics Unit, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 28/3/18
Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be grateful to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org

Parish Finance Statistics – essential to R&R for finance measures

- **What we do:**
 - Collect detailed financial information through the annual parish finance returns to enable assessment of parish's financial health and vulnerabilities
- **What this involves:**
 - data collection, liaison with dioceses, quality assurance, estimation for missing data,
 - analysis and reporting.
- **What is new?** Parish finance dashboards

Example of parish finance dashboard

Finance dashboard for the parish of Farthing: St Timothy in the Deanery of WALMINGTON



Weekly average planned giving per planned giver (2016)
 Parish: £3.05
 Diocese: £4.69

Number of churches in parish (2016): 1
 Parish code: 777778

Notes & definitions

This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish; gaps may be the result of missing returns.
 Graph 2 shows a detailed breakdown of the Total giving figure in graph 4.
 Graph 3: Planned giving = Tax efficient planned giving + Other planned giving; Planned givers = Tax efficient planned givers + Other planned givers.
 Graph 4 shows income other than grants and legacies.
 Graph 4: Total giving = Tax efficient planned giving + Other planned giving + Collections at services + All other giving, including Special Appeals.
 Graph 4: Other income = Dividends, interest, income from property + Any other income.
 Graph 5 shows expenditure other than capital expenditure.
 Graph 5: Other expenditure = Fund-raising activities + Mission and evangelism costs + Cost of trading + Other expenses.
 Graph 5: Running expenses & utilities also includes governance costs.
 Graphs 1-6: Unrestricted and Restricted amounts have been combined.
 For further definitions please see the guidance notes attached to the Return of Parish Finance: <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>

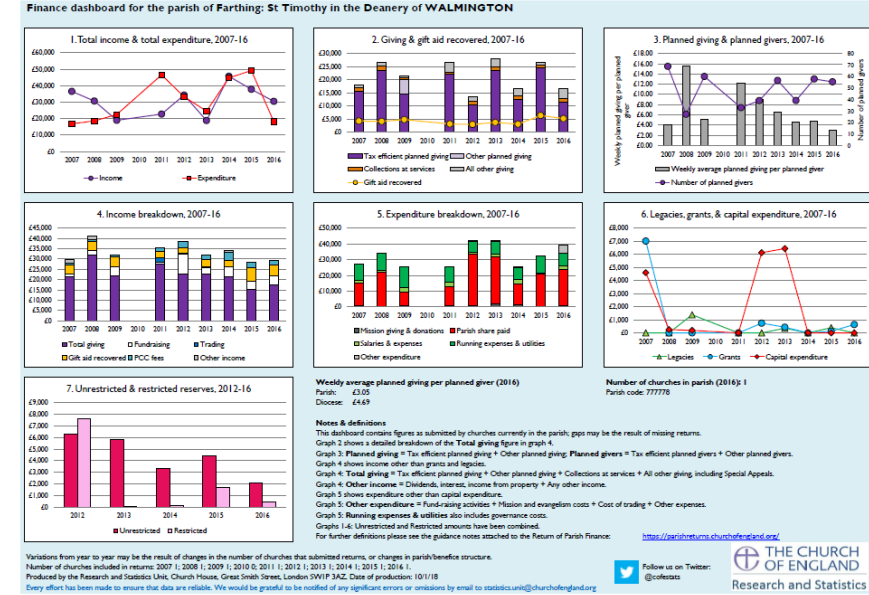
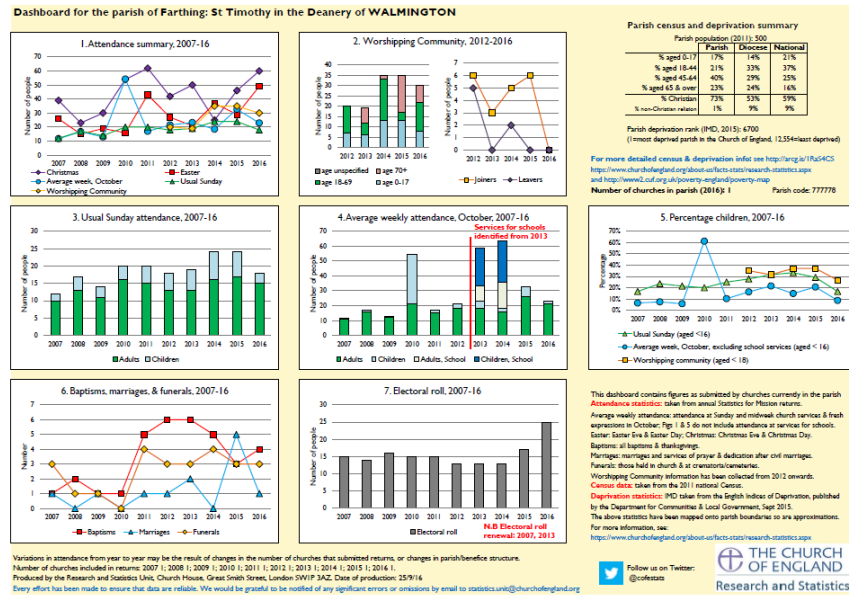
Variations from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.
 Number of churches included in returns: 2007 1; 2008 1; 2009 1; 2010 0; 2011 1; 2012 1; 2013 1; 2014 1; 2015 1; 2016 1.
 Produced by the Research and Statistics Unit, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 10/1/18
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Statistics for Mission and Finance dashboards



- Individual pdf documents for each parish, shared with dioceses on Dropbox: https://www.dropbox.com/home/9_ChesterData_Oct2017
- These have been emailed to parishes if requested by their diocese.
- These are generated using an simple excel macro.
- The underlying, editable, spreadsheets have been shared.

New work required for R&R (requires new resource)

1. Congregational survey

What we aim to do: to better understand key characteristics of the people in congregations, such as their age, ethnicity and gender, frequency of worship and distance travelled to church, to help monitor the impact of R&R initiatives

2. New church congregations

What we aim to do: to identify and better quantify the number and size of new congregations in fresh expressions.

3. Lay ministry

What we aim to do: Understand better the contribution made by lay ministry across the church

Diocesan Support

- **What we do:**
 - Increasing collaboration with dioceses, to better understand and identify ways of capturing attendance statistics, particularly around new congregations.
 - Create resources to help parishes better use their data for mission.
- **What this involves:**
 - annual conversations with each diocese about their statistics (chats for mission),
 - development of a diocesan online discussion forum
 - supporting and visiting dioceses with specific data needs.
- **What is new?** 4 Diocesan Statistics workshops – most recent yesterday!

Examples of advice and consultancy in last year

Requested by Archbishops' Council:

- Coastal towns – statistical information
- Rural churches – statistical information and advice
- Coastal schools – statistical information and advice
- Presence and Engagement work – provide statistical background information
- Cathedrals review – methodological advice and analysis
- Safeguarding work – methodological and statistical advice

Requested by Ministry Division:

- Living Ministry and other Ministry Division surveys – ethical and methodological advice,

Requested by simplification committee, strategy, wider church

- Large scale data projects – design, tender and project management
- Diocesan Articles of Enquiry

Happy to answer questions...

- Email [statistics.unit @churchofengland.org](mailto:statistics.unit@churchofengland.org)