



Diocese of Bristol
Creating connections

2018 Report

Across the Diocese of Bristol in 2018, there was growth in ministry, vocations, discipleship, evangelism and service.

This growth was supported by an increase in investment from within the Diocese and the national Church of England.

The Bristol Diocesan Board Finance Ltd (DBF), the central body that serves the Diocese as a whole, supported that investment and that is reflected in its Annual Report and Financial Statements.

Leadership and vision

The Diocese welcomed the appointment and arrival of a **new Bishop of Bristol, Rt Revd Vivienne Faull**, formerly Dean of York.

On her appointment, Bishop Viv expressed her excitement at being **“at the heart of this great, multicultural diocese”** and her desire to **“lead a diocese that continues its pioneering courage and shows the love of God of everybody, whoever they are”**.

Parishes, chaplaincies and schools, continued to work out the diocesan vision of **Creating connections – with God, each other and our communities**, and focusing on the **priorities of making disciples, growing leaders and engaging younger generations**.

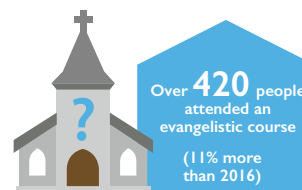
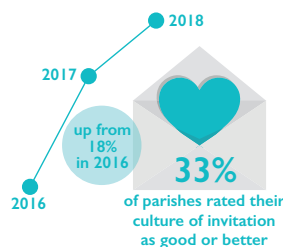
Ministry and mission

The DBF funds ministry and provides support that enables mission across the Diocese.

In total, **201 clergy** were licensed across the Diocese’s 200 churches and various chaplaincies and institutions, **an increase of 10%**. There was a 4% increase in incumbent (vicar equivalent) posts. 180 people were in post as Licensed Lay Ministers.

Supported by the **“Making disciples in your parish”** resources, parishes built on a foundation of prayer. They reported growth in a range of areas.

Churches continued to run **200 social action projects** and are involved in a further 300.



The numbers of people **going forward for ordination continued to grow**. 14 candidates were sponsored for ordination, greater than the 50% increase aimed for, and the cohort were younger and more diverse.

The Diocese **launched two Resourcing churches** – St Nicholas, Bristol and the Pattern Church, Swindon – with £3m grant funding over six years from the Church of England’s Strategic Development Fund.

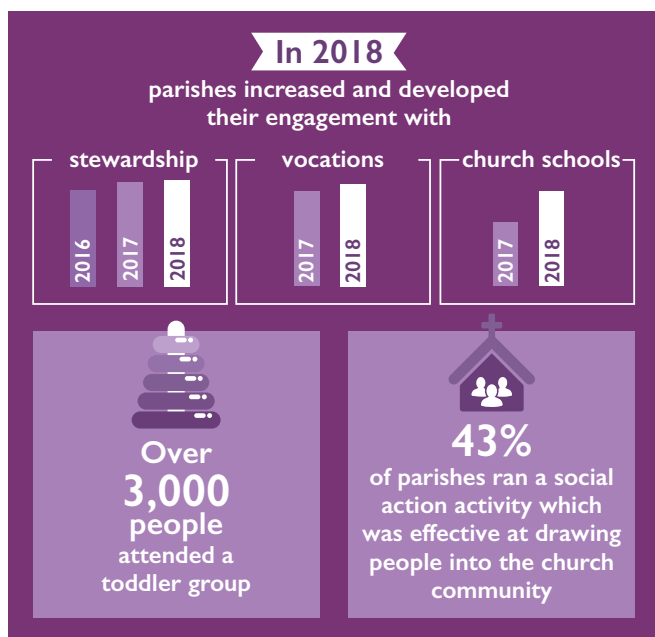
Resourcing churches exist to reach new people and resource others by growing and giving away disciples and leaders, planting and strengthening other churches, and providing financial and other resources for mission.

Education and support

The Diocese's family of 70 church schools continued to develop, offering an authentically Christian education to 17,000 children.

A new Church of England secondary school in Swindon, the Deanery CE Academy, began to be built and will open in September 2019.

The Diocesan Support Services team sought to express vision, strengthen relationships, empower people, maximise resources and develop structures as they served parishes, ministers and schools. 4,600 people received training, a 7.5% increase.



Giving and finance

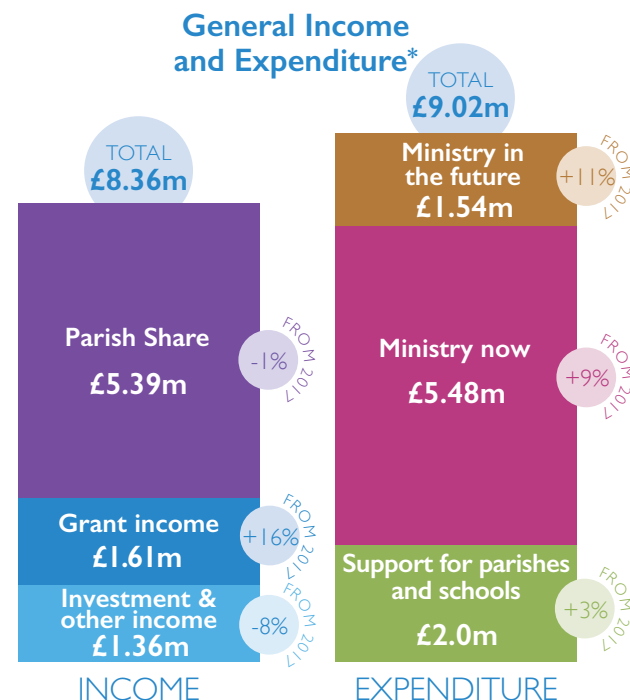
The DBF significantly increased its investment in ministry and support, from £8.36m to £9.02m. This was in accordance with the Financial Plan approved by the Board of Directors and endorsed by the Diocesan Synod.

The increase largely related to **increases in ordinands, curates and ministers** – an additional 9% or £580,000 in total. This was supported in part by increased grant income.

Central costs were managed carefully and were in line with budget, in total a 3% increase accounted for by cost of living increases and some externally funded work.

However, Parish Share was £295,000 less than budgeted. Despite overall increases in parish income, **Parish Share remains a challenge** if the Diocese is to continue to invest in the current levels of ministry.

Once other funds and capital funding is factored in, the DBF sustained an operating deficit of £291,000.



*This relates to recurring income and expenditure (see page 9 of Annual Report)

The year ahead

In 2019, the Diocese is welcoming new Archdeacons of Malmesbury and of Bristol, Christopher Bryan and Neil Warwick, and a new Director of Ministry Development, Simon Taylor. Liz Townend has taken up the post of Diocesan Director of Education.

The Diocese will continue to work to its Creating connections vision, priorities and 2016-20 Strategic Plan. At the same time, it will review implementation of the plan and start to develop the next Strategic Plan (2021-5), and seek to find ways to resource this vision and the plans that support it.