

Diocese of Bristol
TRANSFORMING CHURCH.
TOGETHER.



Priority Communities Network

Parks and Walcot

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Welcome

Thank you so much for being part of the Priority Communities Network. Together we are playing our part in making the Good News of Christ visible across some of our most disadvantaged communities in the Diocese.

Scripture tells us that God's heart is for our communities. In Luke 4:18-19 it says "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." God delights in our servant-hearted response to His call to minister with those who are often overlooked by wider society.



As a Diocese, we feel a calling to see creation restored and humanity reconciled by following Jesus, serving others and transforming communities. A key part of this is supporting churches in priority communities to share the good news of Christ through words and actions, meeting the needs of their local areas. Our hope is that this booklet will offer an opportunity for your parish to discover more about the Priority Communities Network (PCN), gain insight into your unique context and consider, together, what support and investment we could offer your church and community.



Meet the team



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The story so far

The calling of every worshipper in the Diocese of Bristol, by the power of the Holy Spirit, is to follow Jesus, serve others and transform communities in a way that is open, generous, creative and brave.

In January 2021, Bishop Viv invited everyone in the Diocese of Bristol into a joint conversation about what the next five years could look like. Months of engagement, prayer and discernment, within church communities and less-heard groups, was carried out and as a response, a new vision for 'humanity reconciled and creation restored' was realised.



After this period of discernment, a new strategy for the next five years in the Diocese was brought about, called Transforming Church. Together. Aligning with the National Vision and Strategy of the Church of England, this strategy aims to celebrate and build on the best of what is, whilst thinking radically about new ways of working, living and worshipping.



A key part of this vision for the future is social transformation. We want to challenge poverty and injustice through increased support and funding for areas of our Diocese that are in areas of the highest disadvantage. We hope to see the Church become an advocate for positive social change and to reverse the decline in church engagement.

As part of the wider 'Transforming Church. Together' vision and strategy, we have embarked on an exciting journey as we deliver a parish-led holistic transformation of the Diocese across 4 dimensions of Mission: Leadership, Communities, Engagement and Action & Advocacy. The Priority Communities Network is a key element of this 5-year strategy. Together, we are beginning to discern how the Lord might be calling us to deploy the substantial resources being made available, through national church funding for the Priority Communities Network.



The Network

Aim

The aim of the priority communities network is to help enable and cultivate sustainable, good growth across areas of multiple deprivation.

What is on offer?



What are we looking for?

Good Growth

We are looking for good growth in churches and parishes which can be defined as:

- Numerical growth of people and finances.
- Depth of discipleship; people becoming more like Jesus and doing the things He did.
- Social transformation in wider communities, more people encountering the love of God.



Impact

Ways we can measure the impact of the priority communities network:

- New Fresh Expressions of Church.
- Increased engagement in Fresh Expressions of Church.
- Increased numbers of people on the fringes of church being connected with.
- More young people engaging with community activities.
- Increased engagement with children through schools' ministry.
- Increased numbers of community groups using church buildings.
- Identifying and developing more lay leaders with 40% under the age of 18.
- Lay leadership and participation of churches becoming more reflective of the demographic of their local context.



Funding

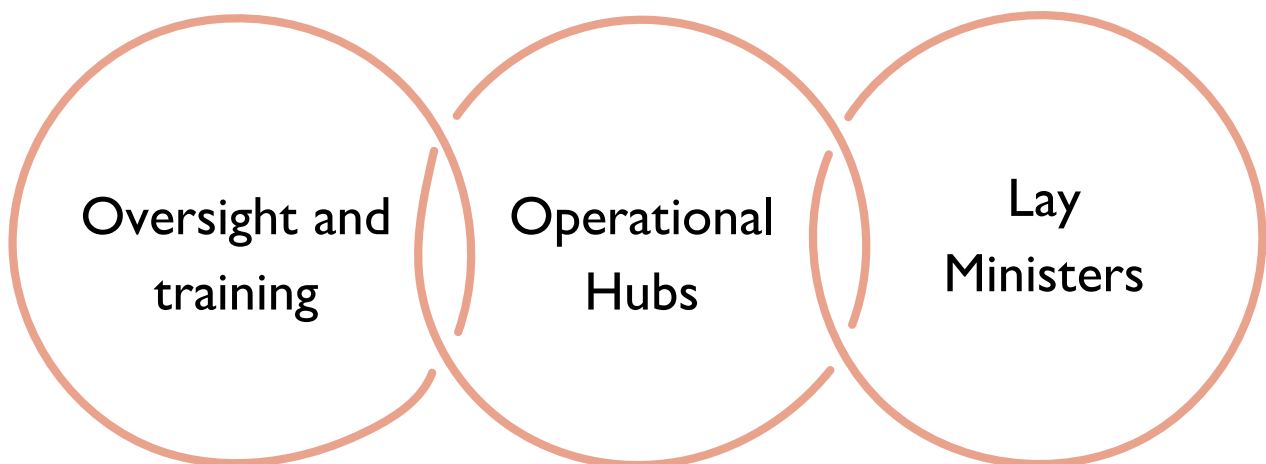
The Diocese of Bristol has been awarded £3.7 million in financial resources towards the Priority Communities Network for a project that is four to five years long, although this timescale may be extended if required. There are 14 contexts that have been identified as being in the top 12.4% of churches on the Diocese Indices of Multiple Deprivation that will have the opportunity to apply for funding.

The funding has initially been used to create a team at the Diocese to enable this project to happen, but the bulk of the funding is intended to support grassroots ministry.

One of the core principles of the project is that the deployment of resources is shaped by our local churches in a contextually relevant way.

All deployment of funding has been designed to reaffirm the national church convictions that every significant social housing estate in the country will have a loving, serving, worshipping Christian Community and that there will be no pastoral schemes for church closure of estate churches, or decreased numbers of clergy.

Funding will be deployed in three parts:





Oversight and training

The funding has enabled the appointment of the Dean of Priority Communities as the strategic lead for the programme, to champion and lead the network, offering coaching, support and facilitating gathering.

Part of the core vision of the programme is to develop people's gifts and leadership potential in our churches. With this in mind, we will be recruiting a full-time Priority Communities Trainer to support parishes in the network in further connecting with their contexts and supporting lay ministers in their context-specific roles. The hope is for this role to be recruited by Summer 2024.

Operational hubs

After listening to clergy from priority communities, it became clear that the best way to see good growth in parishes is through more support with the operational and administrative aspects of church life. Therefore, we are offering funding towards Operational Hubs that will help lighten the administrative and organisational load on our clergy, so they can be further released into enabling the good growth of the church's discipleship & mission. After continued discussion with clergy, together we can see that the most effective way to use this funding will be to appoint Operations Managers to serve and support small clusters of PCN churches in geographic locations (Swindon, North Bristol, Central Bristol, South Bristol).

Operational hubs

From the discussions so far, we understand that Priority Communities Operational Managers could help with:

- GDPR and church database management
- DBS Application and Safer Recruitment
- Safeguarding policies and role descriptions (for the multitude of roles in church life)
- H&S risk assessments for activities
- Finance: working with treasurers to support bookkeeping, annual reporting and evidence-building for independent examiners
- Support with managing building contracts such as cleaners, heating and waste
- Liaising with the Diocesan Building and Fundraising teams
- PCC meetings, discussions and future planning
- Connecting with the community through occasional help with toddler groups, warm spaces, Alpha etc.



To lighten the load on our local churches, these Priority Communities Operational Managers would be employed by Bristol Diocese centrally, and a laptop, printer and annual expenses budget would be provided through the Priority Communities funding. We are keen for Priority Communities contexts to receive this support soon, so we would value your PCC's feedback on your local administrative and operational needs via Part I of the PCN Proposal Form (separate document) as soon as possible.



Lay ministers

It is down to us working together and with our local churches, to discern what God might be calling us to do with this funding. For some parishes, this might mean working together to employ a community evangelist/outreach worker, or to launch a schools/youth outreach programme across an area, or to launch a shared community grocery, workshop, parenting programme, etc. Or it could be appropriate to employ individual ministry staff, or several part-time ministry staff to work in a particular parish as part of the ministry team. The hope is that by identifying the needs in your community, you can consider what role would be best suited to see good growth in your context.

Roles you could consider for your context:

- Funding for youth and school workers, community outreach pastors or evangelists.
- Ministers to work alongside and support the clergy on the ground.
- Releasing new lay ministers and training them.
- Setting up CAP life skills/recovery programmes.
- Support for building teams - growing a culture of shared leadership.
- People and resources to establish community workshops, warm spaces, community groceries, youth projects and more!

These staff could be employed locally (if the local church has the capacity to do this), or be employed by the Diocese (and managed locally). Priority Communities funding would cover the cost of a laptop, printer and annual expenses budget. The Priority Communities Trainer will also be integral in offering parishes support as they bring in a lay minister, from how to support their work connecting with the community, accessing resources and offering training and development.

Who is involved?



The following list of contexts has been invited to take part in the core funded programme:

- St. Andrew, Hartcliffe, & Withywood Church, Bristol (Rev. Derek Maddox)
- St. Barnabas, Filwood, Knowle West, Bristol (Rev. Clive Hamilton)
- Easton Christian Family Centre, Bristol (Rev. David Moore)
- St. Peter, Penhill, Swindon (Rev. Lydia Morey)
- Shine Pinehurst (BMO), Swindon (Rev. Simon Halls)
- St. Peter's Lawrence Weston, Bristol (Rev. Dr Andy Murray)
- St. John's & St. Andrew's (Parks & Walcot), Swindon (Rev. Patch Webb)
- St. Luke with Christchurch Barton Hill & St Matthew Moorfields, Bristol (Rev. Nicola Coleman)
- St. Stephen's Southmead, Bristol (Rev. Gaby Doherty)
- St. Agnes in St. Paul's, & St. Anne's Church, Eastville, Bristol (Rev. Melanie Otto)
- St. Mary Magdalene with St. Francis, Lockleaze, Bristol (Rev. Rob Smith)
- St. Mary's, Henbury, Bristol (Rev. Rod Cosh)
- St. Mary's Fishponds, Bristol (Rev. Lizzie Kesteven)
- St. Mary's, Shirehampton, Bristol (Rev. Alison Sowton)

What about Parishes not on the list?

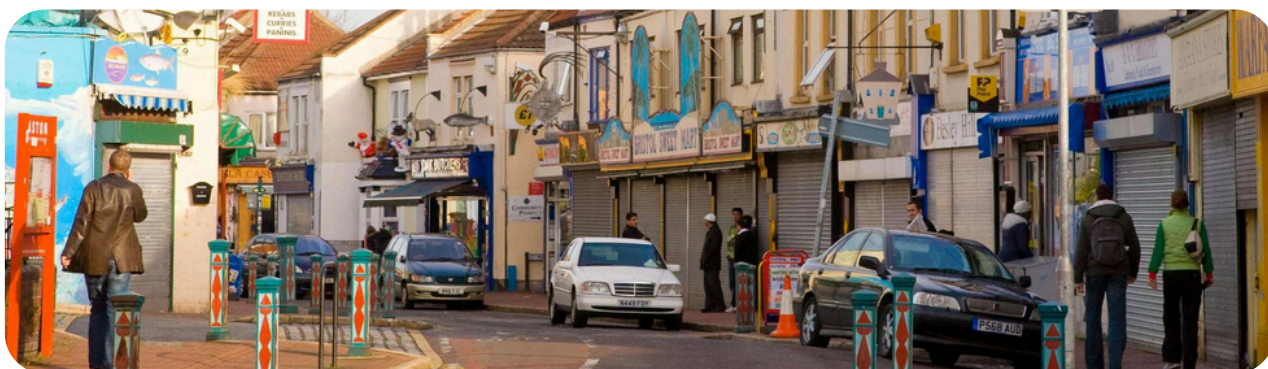
We understand that the expectations may be too great for some clergy/parishes at this stage. We are also very aware that not everyone who has been part of PCN gatherings so far are listed above. For those who aren't on this list, and for those who don't feel ready to join in with the funded programme, there are options for engagement and support through:

- The ongoing PCN gatherings, retreats, events, and leadership development input.
- Lay ministry development programme.
- Being part of the 'Jesus Shaped People' discipleship programme (please do get in touch if you want to find out more about this).
- Alongside the resources linked to the wider TC.T programme (growing faith chaplaincy support; coaching & leadership development; joining or forming a mission area; etc).



What is involved?

There are additional expectations on the churches and church leaders who choose to be part of the funded aspect of the Priority Communities Network project. We are asking for a commitment to attending training, network gatherings, coaching meetings, ministry planning and reporting. We will be capturing stories from the different contexts, as well as, qualitative data relating to the good growth vision. But the great news is that the Priority Communities Network team will help with this, to ensure that the load does not disproportionately fall on the parish clergy.



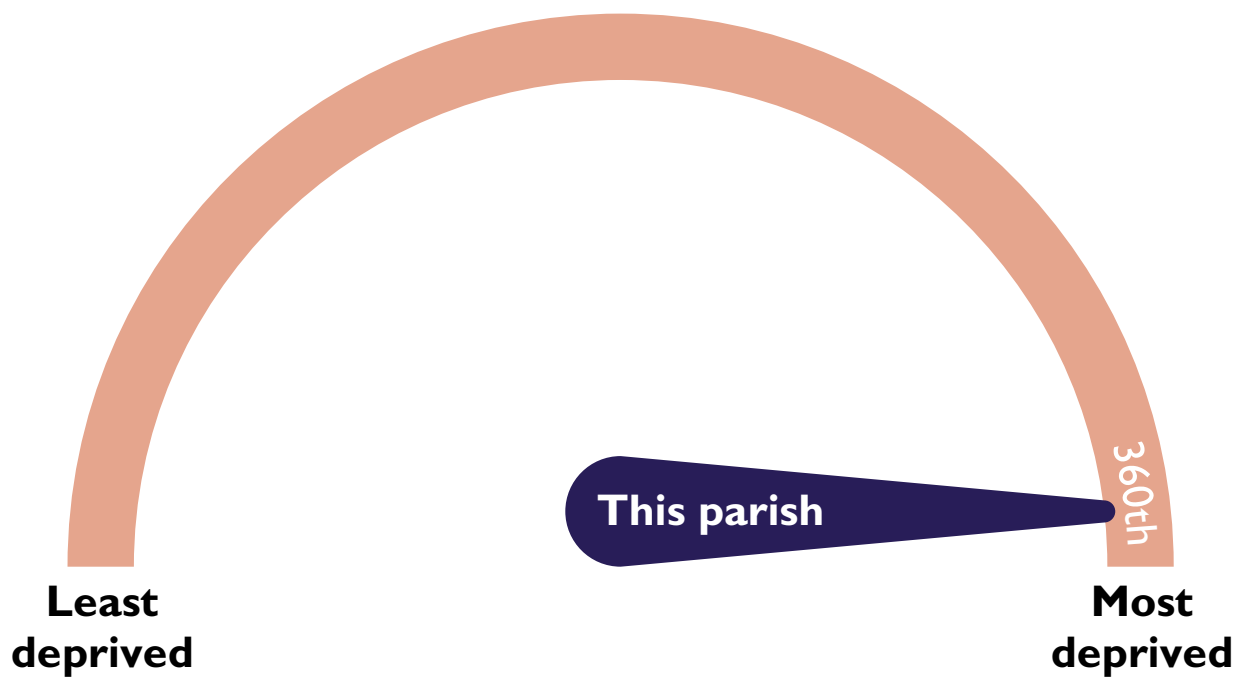
We want to help your Wardens, PCC and Ministers to work together to discern what God may be calling you to do, in response to the offer of resources and investment through the Priority Communities Network programme. With that in mind, we have prepared a data pack on the following pages, which highlights some of the demographics, and challenges facing your community.

We believe that it is helpful, in the discernment process, to name some of the challenges facing our communities. But we also want to celebrate all the good things in our communities and the unique opportunities God gives us to love and serve those around us. We hope these resources are helpful. Please do let us know if further, more detailed statistical data would be helpful, as this can be provided if needed.



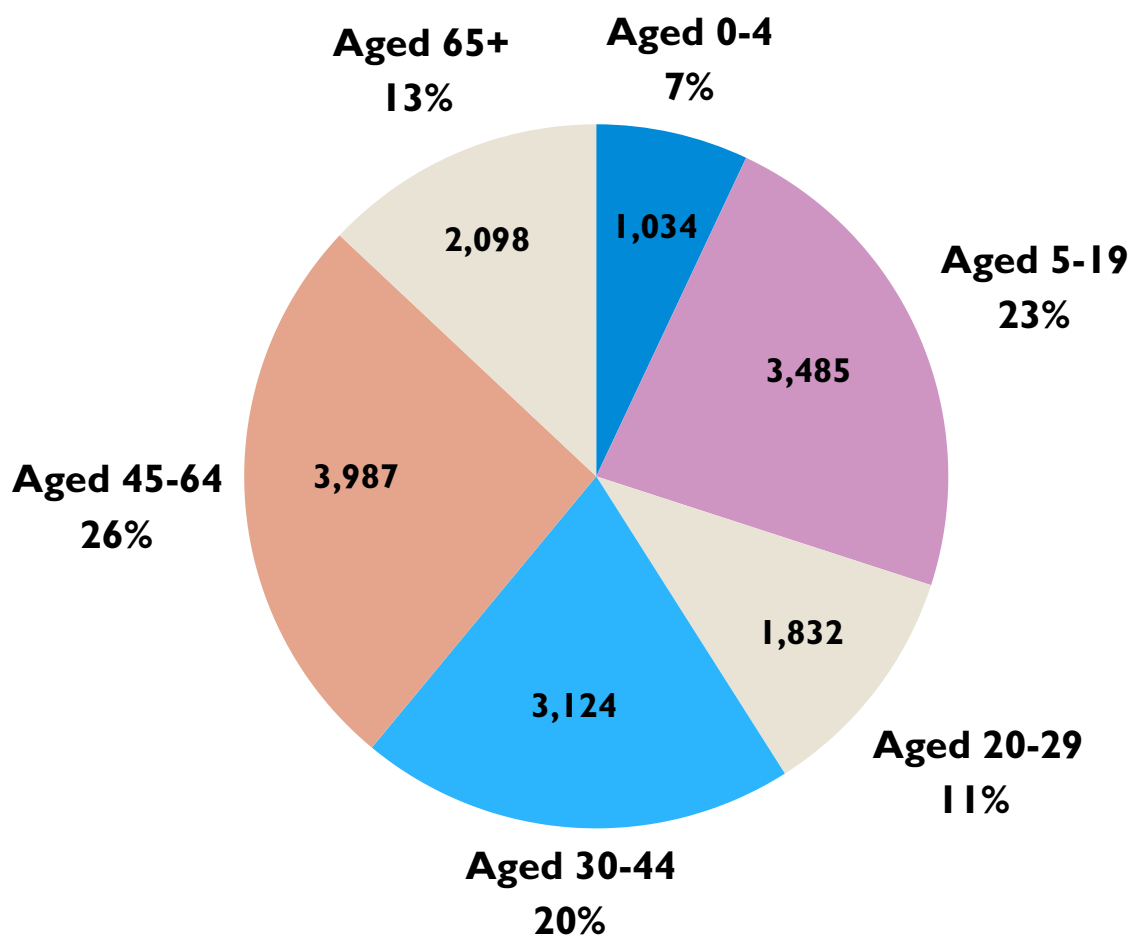
Your Parish

The population of the parish of Parks and Walcot is 15,560 living in 6,059 households. Nationally, it ranks 360th out of 12,239, where 1 (one) is the most deprived parish. This means that your parish is among the most deprived in the country.



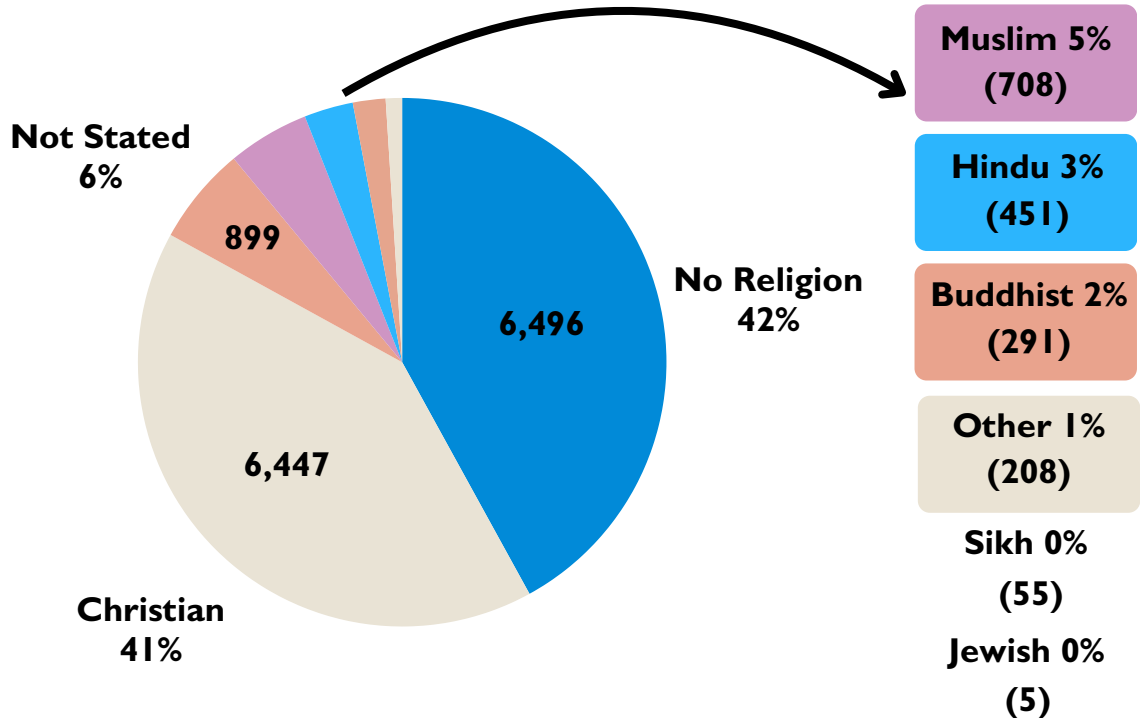
Age

This parish has a real variety of ages calling it home, many of whom are young. Over 60% are under the age of 45.



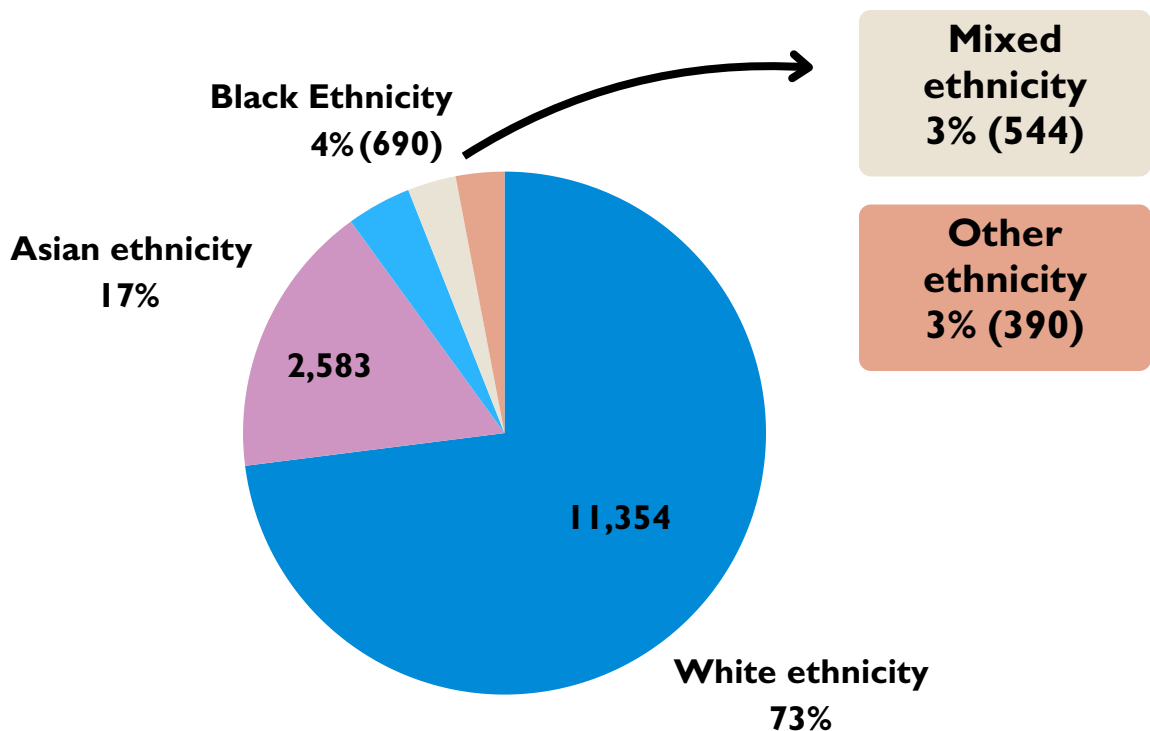
Faith

This Parish is predominately an area that would say they're not religious, with 48% saying they have no religion or did not state a religion on the census. This is followed by Christianity at 41%.



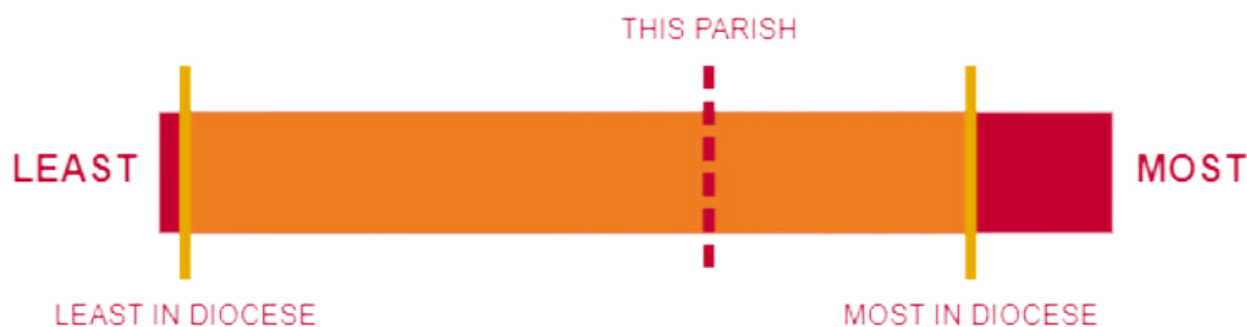
Ethnic diversity

11,354 (73%) of people living in this parish are from white backgrounds, meaning 27% of the population are from ethnic minority backgrounds.

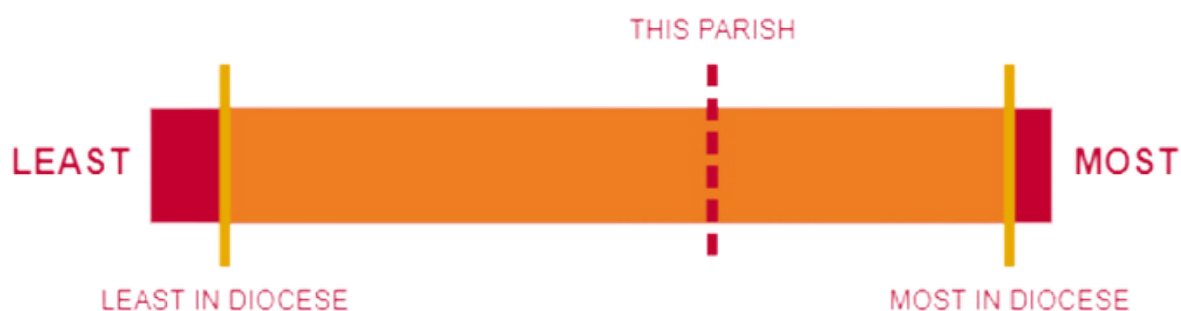


Families

33.5% of children in this parish are living in poverty, that's 1,234 children. This can be defined as the proportion of children aged 0-15 living in income-deprived families where the income is 60% below the national average or they are receiving state financial support. This rating is 284th out of the 12,239 parishes.

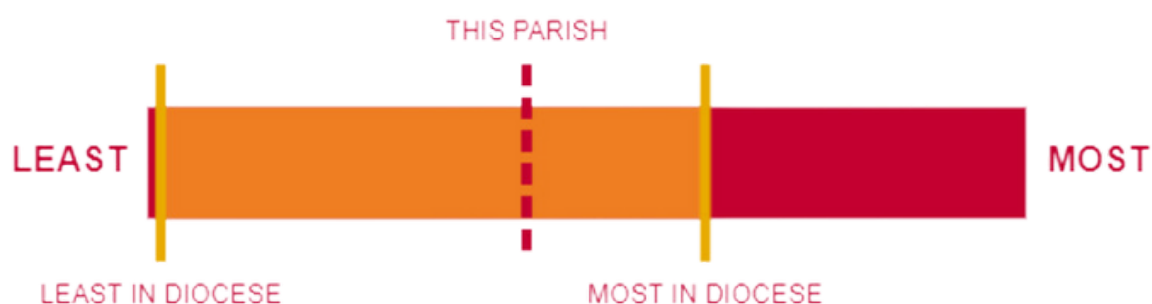


36.6% of families in this parish are lone parents. This means that either a mother or father takes care of dependent children without a partner.

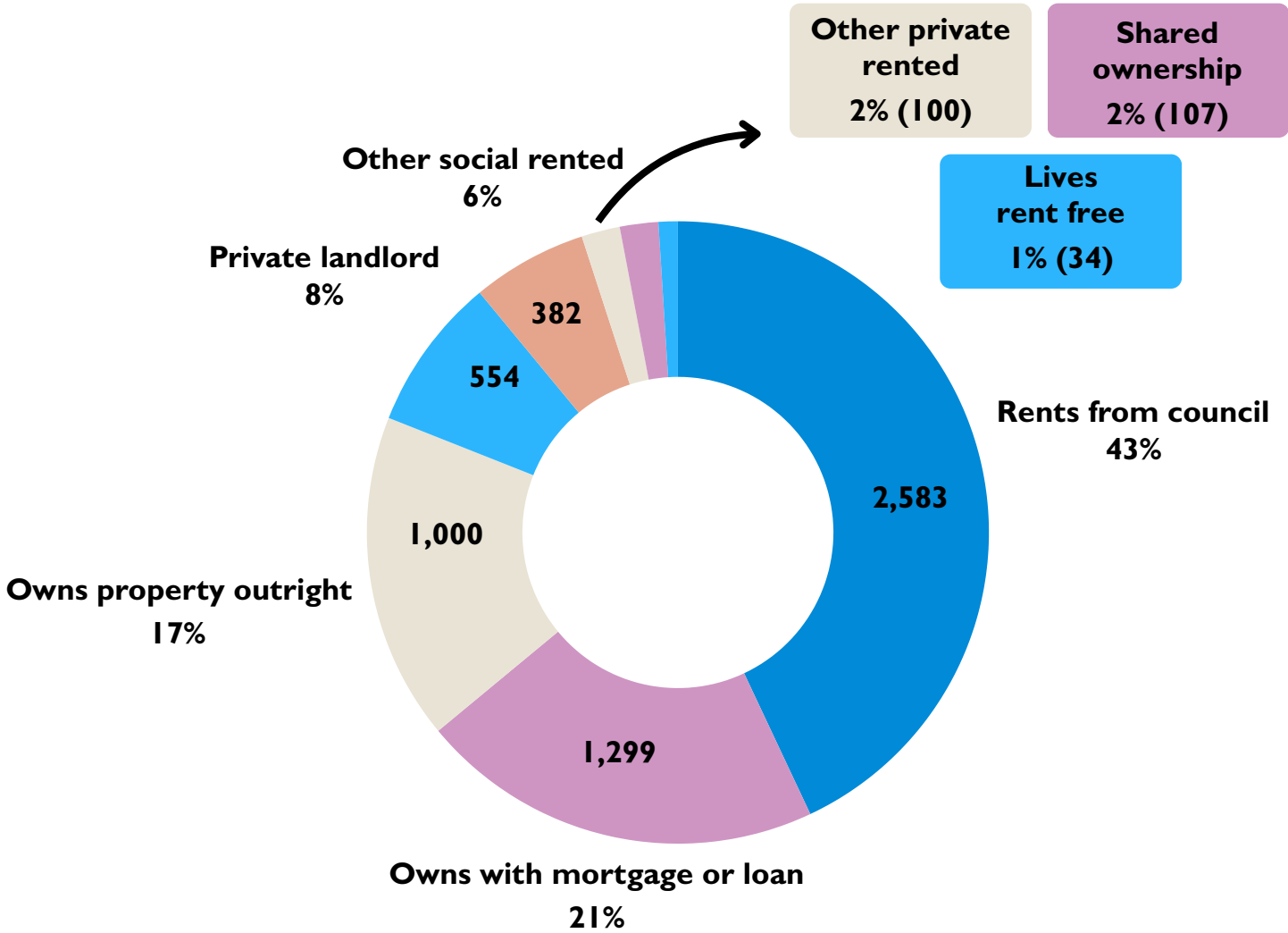


Older people

32.5% of pensioners living in this parish are experiencing income deprivation, that's 682 people. Income deprivation for older people is defined as those aged 60 or over who are receiving state support with their income. This is ranked 473rd out of 12,239 parishes with 1 (one) being the most deprived.

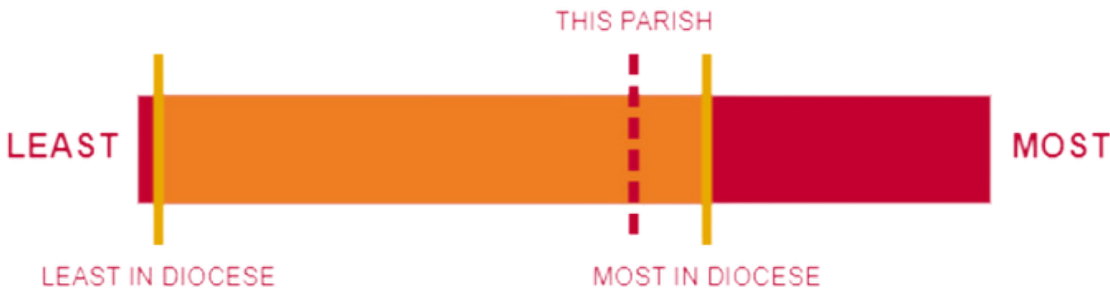


Housing Tenure

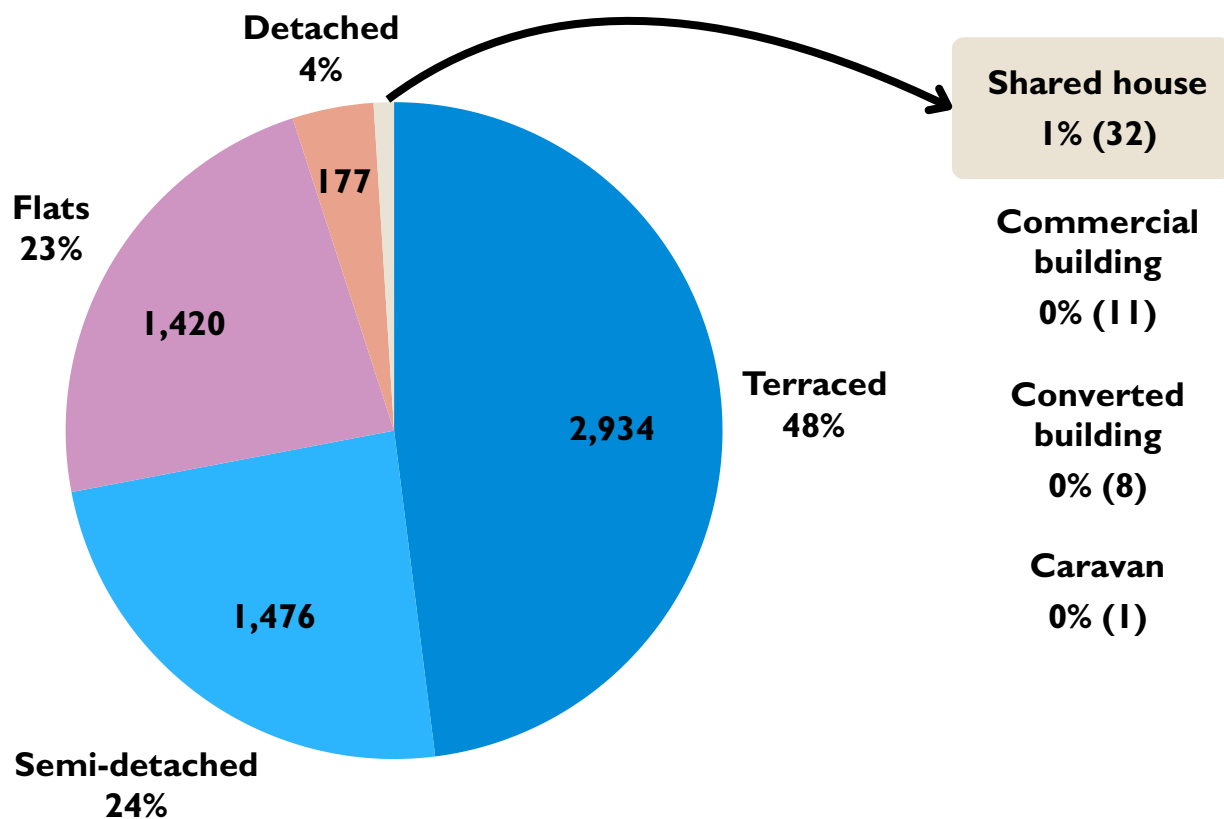


Social Housing

50.2% of families living in Parks and Walcot are living in local authority or housing association properties, that's 3,042 families.

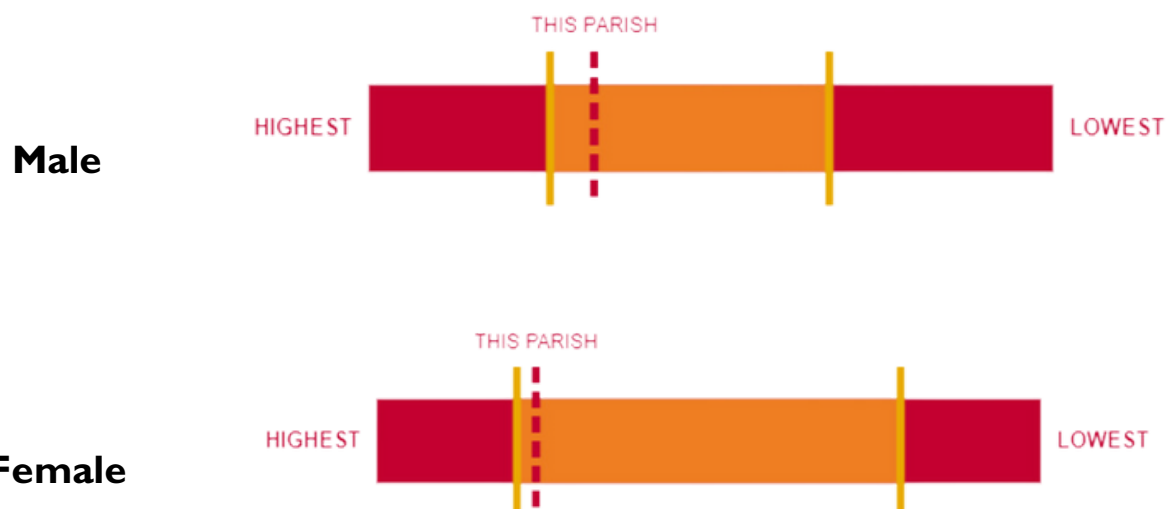


Types of housing



Life expectancy

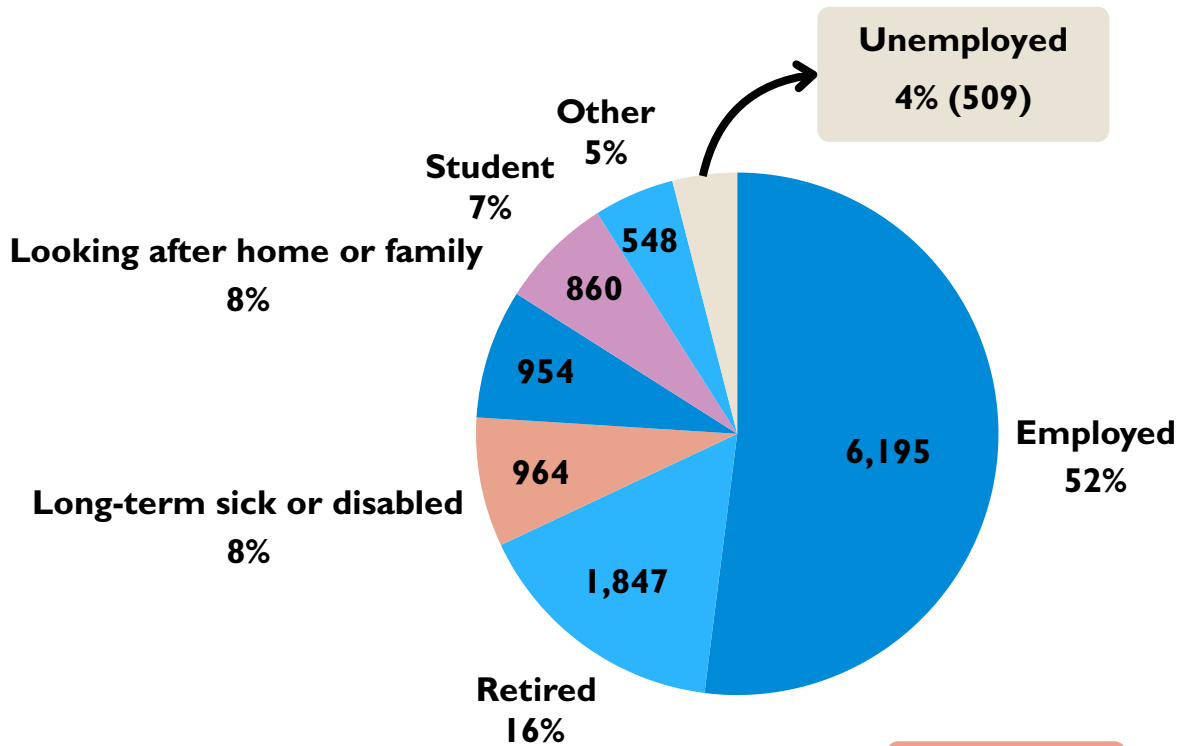
This refers to the number of years a person would live if they experienced Parks and Walcot particular age-specific mortality rates. For a female person, the average life expectancy in Parks and Walcot is 79.5 years. The average life expectancy for a male person is 75.6 years.



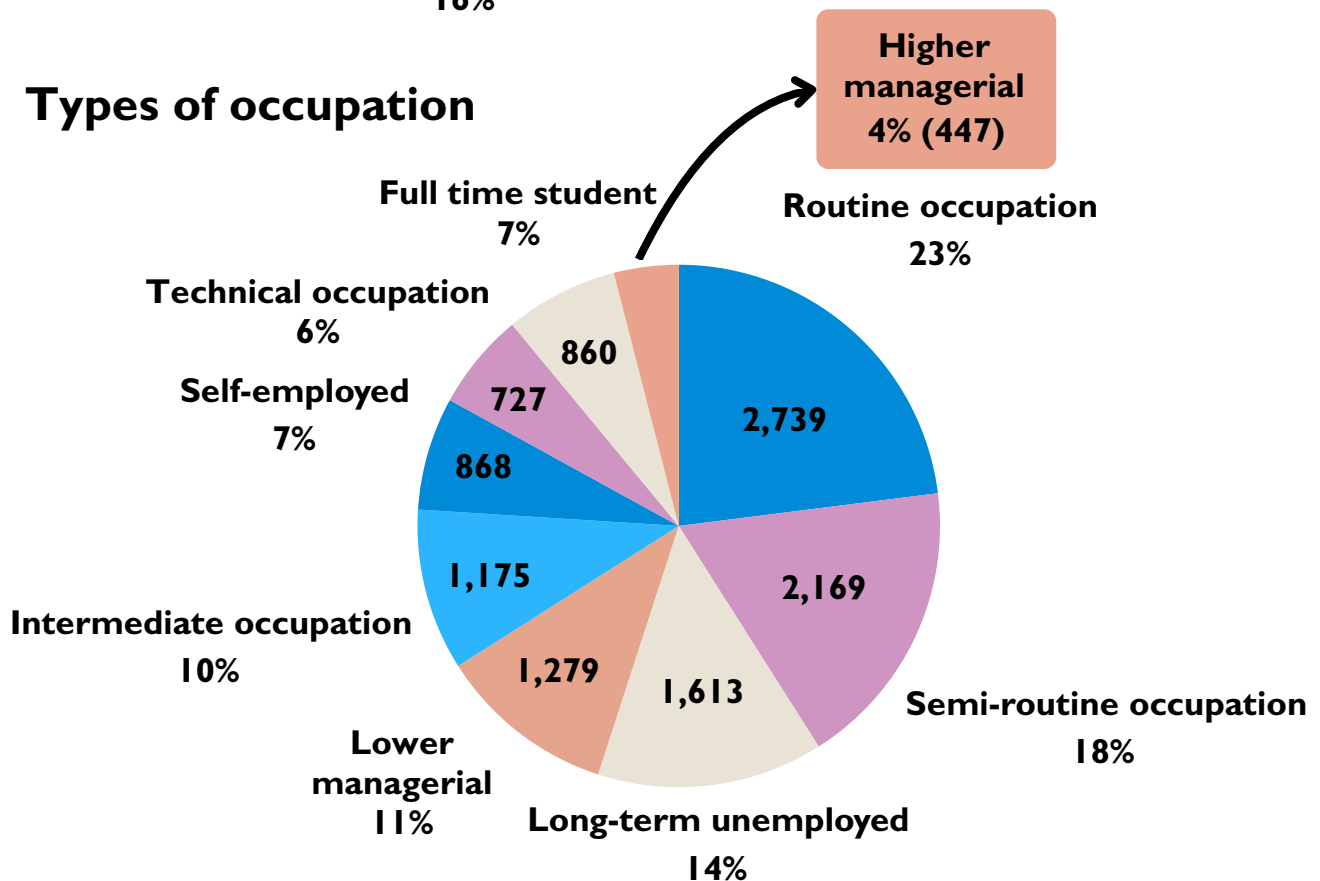
People at work

Economic Activity

This pie chart shows the number of people over the age of 16 in various occupational situations.



Types of occupation

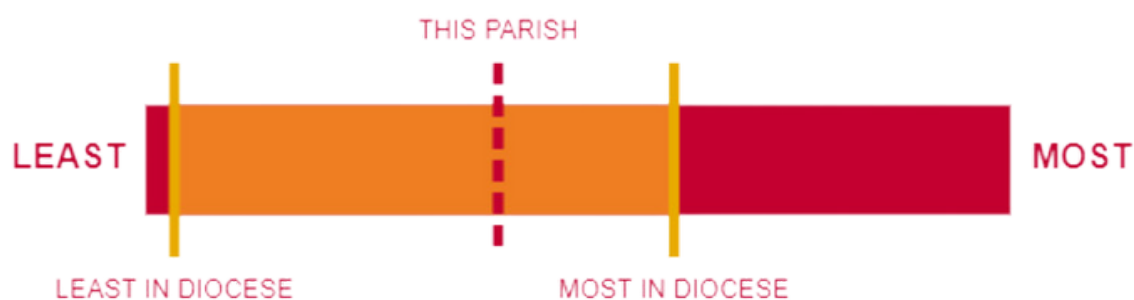


Income

This parish has an income deprivation rank of 334th out of 12,239. It has an employment deprivation rank of 1,240th. The income deprivation rank affecting children is 282nd and the income deprivation affecting older people is 461st.

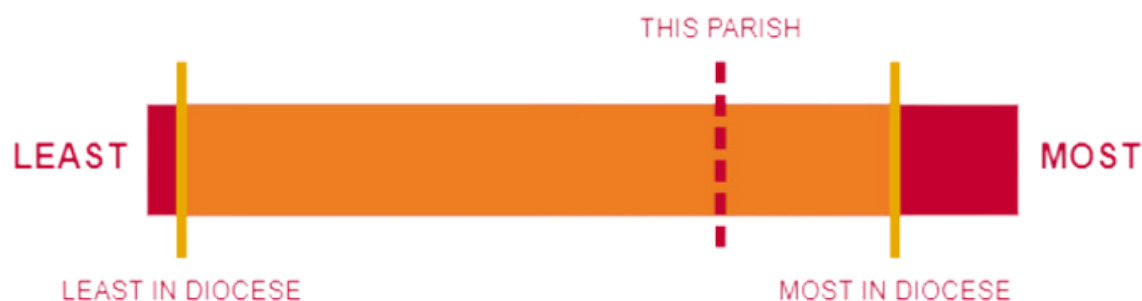
Working age poverty

18.1% of working adults living in Parks and Walcot are experiencing income deprivation. This includes those in receipt of Job Seeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Carer's Allowance. The highest level in the Diocese is 26.9%. This parish's working age poverty is IMD ranked 517th.

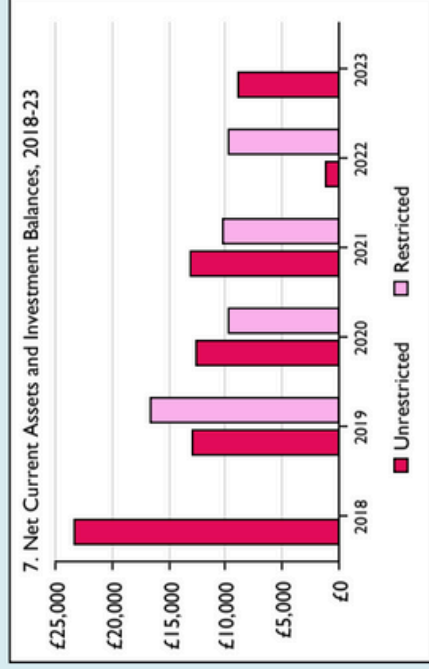
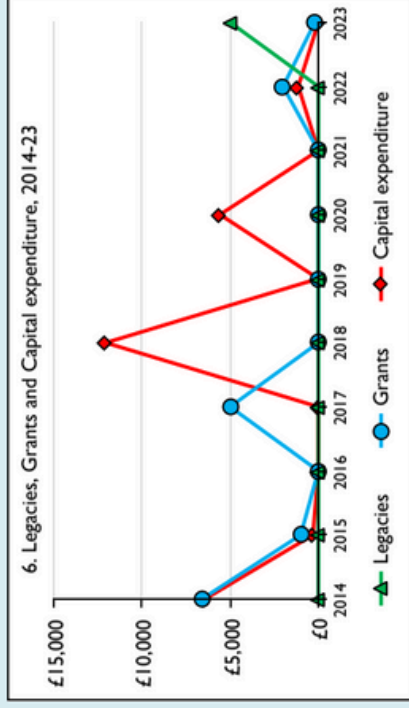
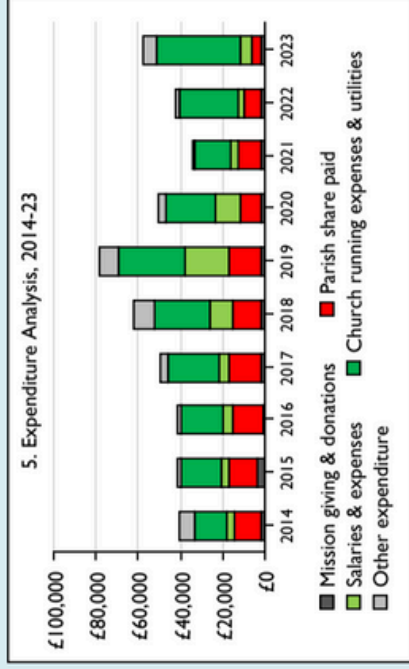
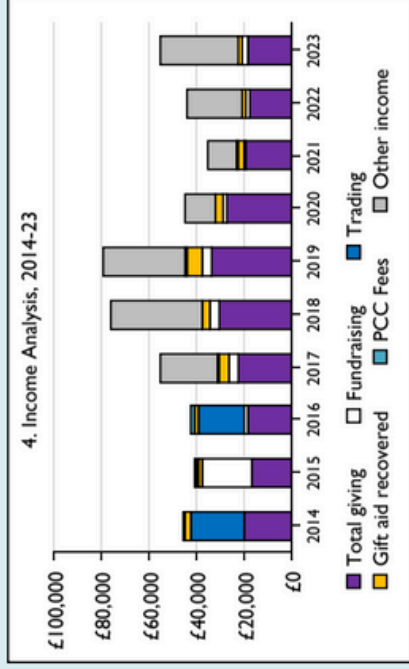
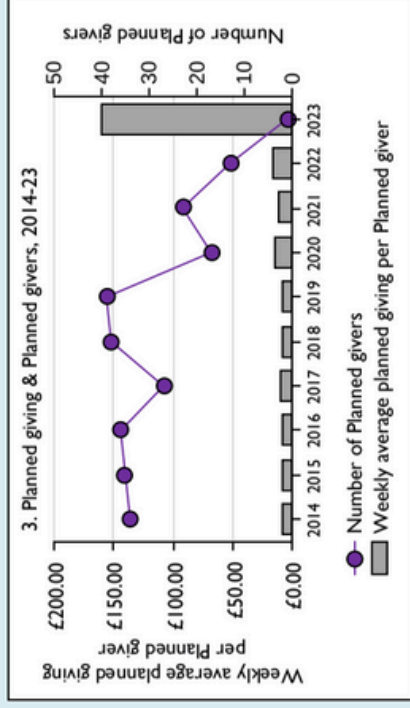
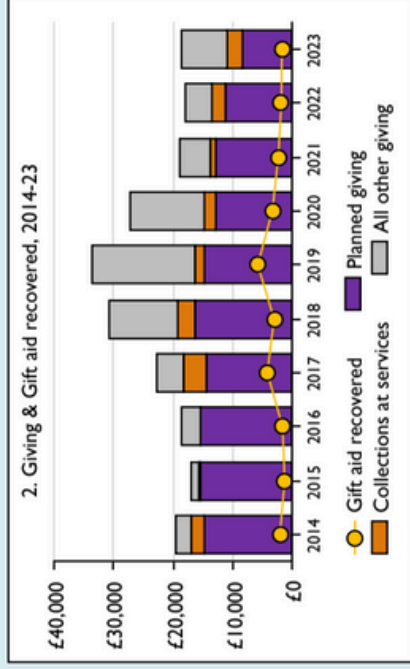
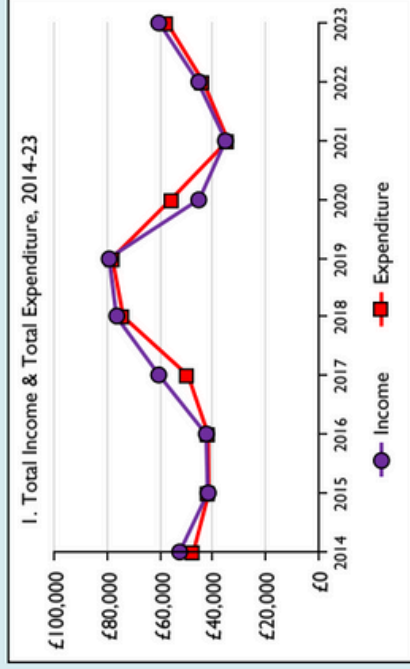


No qualifications

The percentage of adults aged 16 - 70 with no academic, vocational or professional qualifications in this Parish is 34.4%.



Finance Dashboard for the Parish of Swindon: St John the Baptist & St Andrew in the deanery of SWINDON



Weekly average planned giving per planned giver (2023)

Parish: £159.54

Diocese: £18.90

Number of churches in parish (2024): 2

Parish code: 550184

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 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:

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: 2014 2:2015 2:2016 2:2017 2:2018 2:2019 2:2020 2:2021 2:2022 2:2023 2.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 10/05/2024.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org

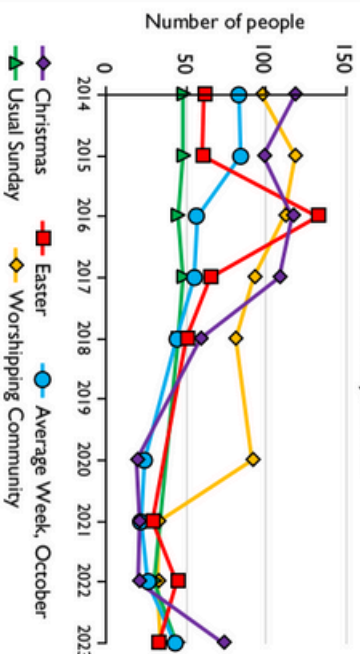


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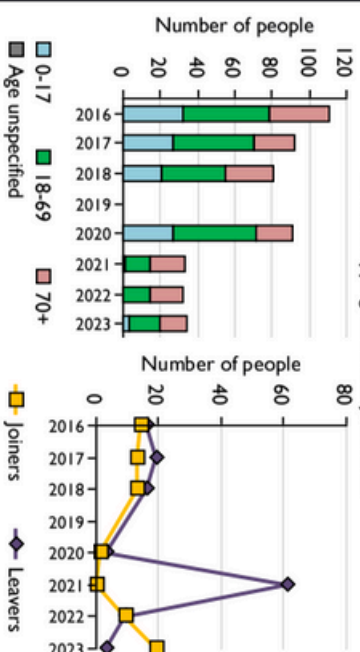
@cofestats

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Swindon: St John the Baptist & St Andrew in the deanery of SWINDON

1. Attendance Summary, 2014-23



2. Worshipping Community, 2016-23



Parish Census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2021): 15560

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	29%	23%	23%
% aged 20-44	32%	37%	33%
% aged 45-69	30%	28%	31%
% aged 70 & over	9%	11%	14%
% Christian	41%	40%	46%
% non-Christian religion	11%	7%	11%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 360

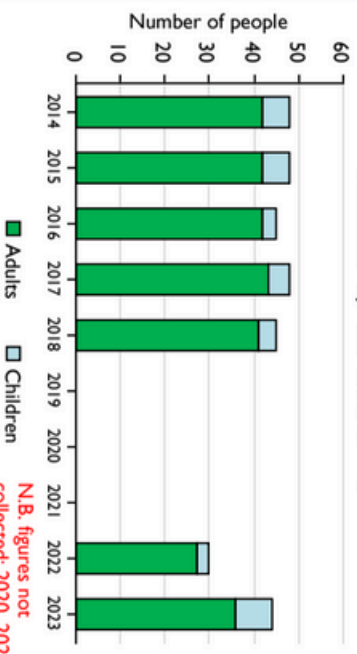
(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,239=least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <http://argis1/RaSaCS>
<https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats> and
<http://www2.cuf.org.uk/poverty-england/poverty-map>

Number of churches in parish (2024): 2

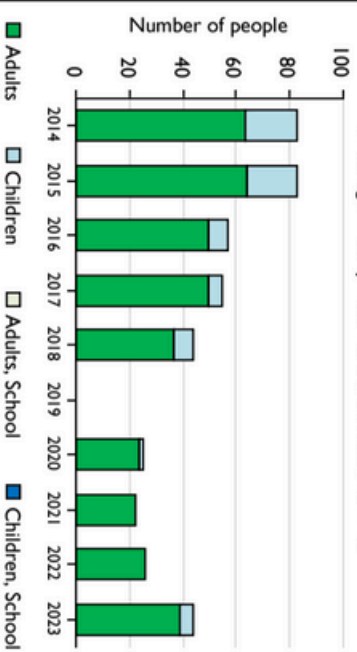
Parish Code: 550184

3. Usual Sunday Attendance, 2014-23

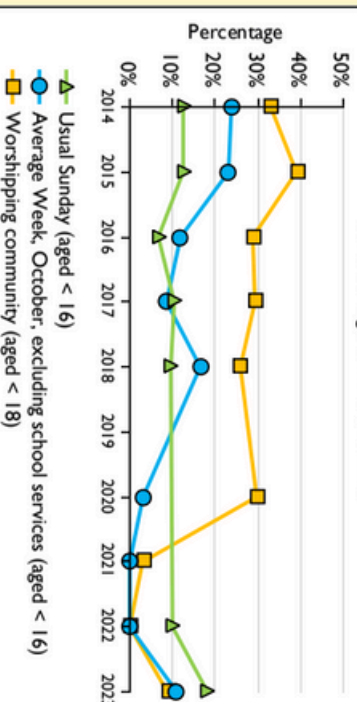


N.B. figures not collected: 2020, 2021

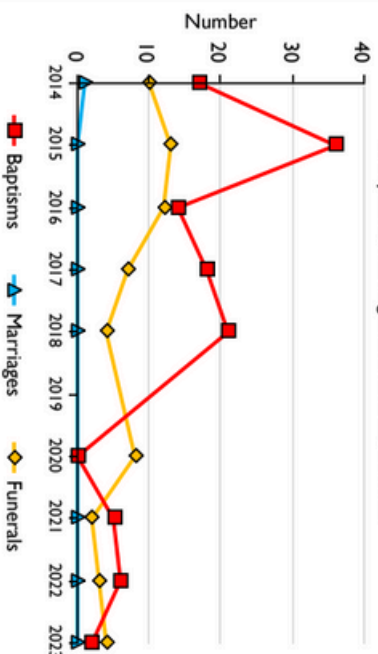
4. Average Weekly Attendance, October, 2014-23



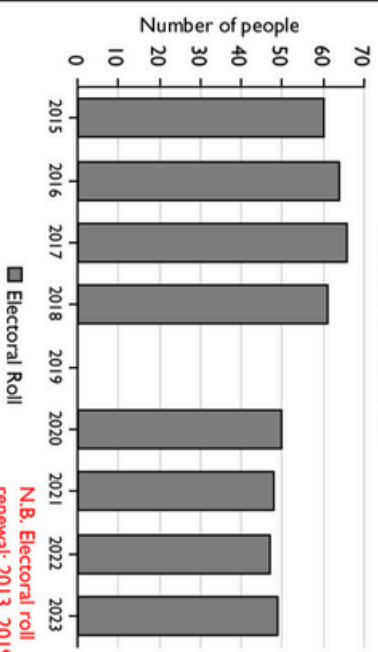
5. Percentage Children, 2014-23



6. Baptisms, marriages and funerals, 2014-23



7. Electoral Roll, 2015-23



N.B. Electoral roll renewal: 2013, 2019

This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish
Attendance statistics: taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.
 Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.
 Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.
 Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.
 Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.
 Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.
 Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.
Census data: taken from the 2021 national Census.
Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019.
 The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.
 For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats>

Variations in attendance 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: 2014 2;2015 2;2016 2;2017 2;2018 2;2019 0;2020 2;2021 2;2022 2;2023 2.

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Next steps

Here is an outline of how the funding proposal process will work. This will be a collaborative opportunity working with the Priority Communities Network Team who will support you throughout.

Seek

Gather your PCC and key leaders to pray and seek the Lord for your church and community. Reflect on your context and prayerfully seek God's vision for the future. Fill in Part 1 of the Priority Communities Network Proposal Form and return it to the Priority Communities team.

Connect

Connect with local leaders and stakeholders about your plans to hear their input and where appropriate find opportunities to collaborate.

Share

Complete Part 2 of the Priority Communities Network Proposal Form and share this with the Priority Communities team. This will be taken to the Priority Communities panel who will consider your proposal and feedback.

Reflect

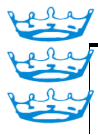
Together with the Priority Communities team, reflect on the feedback about your proposal form and create updated plans for next steps.

Invitation

At the appropriate time for your context and the wider programme, we will work together to progress your proposals.

Report

Share with the Priority Communities network and team about what is happening in your context through stories and reporting data.



Diocese of Bristol

TRANSFORMING CHURCH.
TOGETHER.

Priority Communities Network



Contact us

prioritycommunitynetworks@bristoldiocese.org

www.bristolanglican.org/visionandpriorities/transforming-church/workstreams/