

## Questions for 2023 Articles of Enquiry

### Diocese of Oxford Archdeacons' Articles of Enquiry 2023

Thank you for your continued service and commitment to our churches and communities during this last year. Your contribution to the life of the church and the mission of God is hugely appreciated, especially during the continued challenging circumstances we face. Our service together remains key in our vision to become a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world.

The Articles of Enquiry are a valued opportunity to share key information about the last year to help us as Archdeacons to form a picture of how things are in your parishes, and what support the diocese may be able to offer. We will endeavour to collate responses and offer you timely feedback on this research, not least at Visitations across the diocese.

This year we have a range of questions which we hope will not take too long for you to answer. We encourage you to work with your fellow wardens (and deputies), your clergy, treasurer and others as needed in finding the information and providing the answers. A copy of the questions should already have been sent to you by email and is also available to download from the Parish Returns System (it can be found on the Articles of Enquiry part of the 'Enter Your Data' page). You can use this to gather and record your answers. We cannot accept paper returns, so please do not send these to us or to the national Parish Returns team.

**Only one Church Warden per parish** needs to submit the answers to the Articles of Enquiry into the Parish Returns System, but please collaborate with your fellow warden(s) and decide which of you will do this. If you have a parish administrator or other person who has access to the system, you may like to ask them to help or enter the information on your behalf (though it remains your responsibility to provide the information).

**Only one set of questions need to be answered per parish.** If your parish has more than one church and there are different answers to some questions for some of the churches in your parish, please use the comment boxes as needed. The deadline for completion of the Articles of Enquiry is **10th April 2023**. This is to enable us to prepare and analyse the results in time for the Visitation Services.

Thank you for all your help and every blessing for the coming year.

The Venerable Stephen Pullin, Archdeacon of Berkshire

The Revd Canon Liz Jackson, Associate Archdeacon of Berkshire

The Venerable Guy Elsmore, Archdeacon of Buckingham

The Revd Canon Chris Bull, Associate Archdeacon of Buckingham

The Venerable Jonathan Chaffey, Archdeacon of Oxford

The Revd Canon Dr Peter Groves, Assistant Archdeacon of Oxford

The Revd Canon David Tyler, Acting Archdeacon of Dorchester

## Questions:

### 1) Environment

- a) In total, how many hours a week is/are your church building(s) used for church or community activities? Please include all activities led by the church and when hired by other community groups. If your parish has more than one church or building, please give one line per church.
- b) What changes has/have your church(es) made in the last year in response to the energy and environmental crises? Please tick all that apply for your parish in the list below and use the text box to record anything else.
  - i)  Explored opportunities to move away from fossil fuels but no action at this time
  - ii)  Currently exploring options to move away from fossil fuels
  - iii)  Implemented change in heating away from fossil fuels
  - iv)  Explored opportunities to generate our own energy but no action at this time
  - v)  Currently exploring options to generate our own energy
  - vi)  Implemented change to generate our own energy
  - vii)  Reduced the number of hours we heat our church building(s)
  - viii)  Reduced the temperature to which we heat our church building(s)
  - ix)  Changed to energy efficient LED light bulbs
  - x)  Implemented other energy saving measures -please describe
- c) Is your parish responsible for any buildings other than your church(es)?
- d) If yes, please can you provide below the address(es) of this / these buildings

### 2) Children and young people

- a) Has your parish engaged with 'Disciples Together' (the diocesan vision and strategy for children, young people and families)?
- b) In the past year has your parish run for children and young people:
  - i)  Sunday provision weekly/ fortnightly/monthly/termly/never
  - ii)  A holiday club yes/no
  - iii)  A toddler group run by the church weekly/ fortnightly/monthly /termly/never

- iv) Midweek group for children aged under 11  
weekly/fortnightly/monthly/termly/never
- v) Midweek group for young people aged 11 + weekly/ fortnightly/monthly  
/termly/never
- vi) Other (please describe)

c) Are young people who are at secondary school part of your church community?  
Yes/no

d) Does your parish have any engagement with your local school/s?

Yes/ No If yes, what?

e) Is your parish connected with children or young people activities through community engagement or partnership (though not necessarily having a faith component) For example, Scouts, sports teams etc.?

Yes/ No If yes, what?

f) How many volunteers and paid staff are there in your parish engaging with children or young people?

Number of paid full time/part time / volunteers

### 3) **New congregations**

a) In your parish, do you have one or more new congregations or new worshipping communities started since May 2020 whose primary focus is worship, which meets at least once per month, and which is mainly made up of people who were not previously attending church regularly? A 'new congregation' is separate from your 'usual' Sunday congregation and might meet on any day of the week, in your church building or elsewhere (such as a café or school). Yes / No

b). Do you have one or more potential new congregations (new worshipping communities), started since May 2020 which is an initiative whose leaders aspire to start a new worshipping community, as defined in the question above, but which have not yet reached that stage? Yes / No

c). Do you have any mission or outreach initiatives started since May 2020 that could become a new worshipping community, as defined in the question above, by introducing an optional spiritual component alongside it. (For example, a luncheon club might invite

guests to stay behind for 15 minutes, light a candle and share Christian music, prayer, a scripture reading and silent reflection.) Yes/No

#### 4) **Social action**

a) In response to the cost-of-living crisis, is your Parish offering any of the following? Please tick all that apply and use the text box to add anything else you are doing.

i) Warm meals

ii) Food parcels

iii) Warm spaces

iv) Advice such as debt counselling

v) Other please describe

b) What guidance could the diocese usefully provide to help your parish with social action?

#### 5) **Discipleship**

a) In the past twelve months, has your parish run one or more enquiry or Christian formation courses? e.g., Alpha, Christianity Explored, Come and See? Yes/ No

b) If yes, which course(s)?

c) In total, how many people attended the enquiry course(s) in the past twelve months who previously did not attend church at least once a month?

d) In your parish how many people have some form of PDP (Personal Discipleship Plan)?

#### 6) **General questions.**

a) Does your parish currently have its own standalone website (i.e. separate to your A Church Near You page)? Yes/ No

b) Would you value diocesan support to create a new parish website using a common platform? We are currently gauging interest, and if parishes support this idea, we will explore options. Yes/Possibly/ Not at this time