Archdeacons' Articles of Enquiry 2026

As always, we thank you for all you are doing in your churches and communities in so many ways. We are now asking for your help with this year's Archdeacons' Articles of Enquiry.

Last year at the swearing in of churchwardens we were able to feed back how we had used the information you provided us through the 2025 Articles of Enquiry. You can see the summary of the findings here: Articles of Enquiry 2025 - Diocese of Oxford

This year we are asking a variety of questions and hope that it will not take more than ten minutes for you to answer. We have worked hard on these questions to ensure that we are only asking questions where we do not previously have information, where we need comparative information and where the information you give will be used. We are very grateful to you all and thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this return.

With many thanks for your help and every blessing for the coming year.

The Venerable Stephen Pullin, Archdeacon of Berkshire

The Revd Canon Paul Cowan, Associate Archdeacon of Berkshire

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 Venerable David Tyler, Archdeacon of Dorchester

The Revd Preb Jane Haslam, Associate Archdeacon of Dorchester

Articles of Enquiry 2026 Questions

1. Discipleship :

1.1.   Thinking about your church (or parish or benefice if you tend to work together), aside from regular worship, do you offer learning about faith through any of the following? Please tick all that apply

> Lent course
> Advent Course
> Bible study group at different times in the year
> Regular house groups
> Other teaching for smaller groups or the whole congregation
> None of these

1.2.   Are you aware of the Diocesan Learning Hub, and if so, are you aware of any individuals or groups within your church/parish who have used its resources?

a. Yes, I am aware of the Learning Hub, and I know of individuals/groups in our parish who have used its resources.
b. Yes, I am aware of the Learning Hub, but I do not know of anyone who has used its resources yet.
c. No, I was not aware of the Diocesan Learning Hub until now.

2. Children and Young People:

2.1.   Does your parish use any of the following resources in their work with children and young people? Please tick all that apply:
> Godly Play
> Youth Alpha
> Christianity Explored
> Bible Project
> Scripture Union
> YFC
> Urban Saints
> Open Doors
> Tear Fund
> Open the book
> None of these
> Other <text box for resources not included in the list>.

2.2.   Is your church in the practice of admitting children to receive communion before confirmation. Yes/ No /Not sure
If yes, does your parish have a written policy for admitting children and young people to communion. Yes/ No/ Not sure

3. Poverty and Social Justice:

3.1.   Does your church offer/provide money support, debt advice, or a hardship fund? Yes/No

     If yes, please describe here how you are helping.

3.2.   During the past year has your church had conversations about the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process and Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) in any of the following contexts? Please tick all that apply.
> PCC meetings
> Other meetings
> Among leadership team
> Run the LLF course
> One or more sermons on this topic
> Informal settings
> Not a feature of any conversations I am aware of
> Not aware of these issues

3.3.   What further guidance on LLF and PLF, if any, would your church find most useful?
> More clarity, including updates from the national church and the working groups on progress and decisions by General Synod and the working groups.

Further clarity on the pastoral reassurance in a form of guidance which could be used by parishes.
Clearer guidance on how and when the PLF resources can be used, if desired.
Other <text>

4. Environment:

There are a number of grants available for net zero/energy related work, but these grants are often only open to buildings or charities that have a high level of community use/community benefit. This question will help identify churches eligible for community funding, such as local development funding or grants such as the energy resilience fund, so we can support these churches access the available grants.

4.1.   Does your church own the church building(s) it uses for worship? Yes/ No

a.   If yes, Is your church and/or your other church buildings ever open for community use by others who do not attend your church? Yes/No

b.   If yes,

- what is your best estimate for the average number of hours a week your church building(s) is/are open for community activities run by the church (e.g. mother and toddler group, lunches for the elderly, warm spaces)

- what is your best estimate for the average number of hours a week your church building(s) is let to community groups for their activities e.g. Brownies, Pilates, book club, concerts.

5. Communications :

This information will help us to support parishes on their websites and social media.

5.1.   Does your parish use any social media? Please tick all that apply
        Facebook,
        Facebook groups,
        WhatsApp group
        Instagram,
        TikTok
        None
        Other <text box>

5.2.   Why does your church use social media? Please tick all that apply
        As a noticeboard,
        To encourage people to attend services in church,
        Digital evangelism e.g. sermons.
        Community-building with existing members
        Not applicable – do not use
        Other <text box>

5.3.   Who in your church is responsible for your social media? Please tick all that apply
        Clergy

Admin staff
Church Warden
Nobody in particular
Not applicable – do not use social media
Other <text box>

5.4.   Which of the following best describes your church's website? Please tick all that apply
We use A Church Near You (ACNY) as our main website
We use ACNY alongside a separate church website
We have a separate church website that is our main site
We use Facebook as our sole website
We have a Facebook page in addition to our website/ACNY
We do not currently have a website or Facebook page
Other <text box>

5.5.   Who in your church is responsible for your web site? Please tick all that apply
Clergy
Admin staff
Church Warden
Nobody in particular
Not applicable as we do not have a website
Other <text box>

5.6.   Does your church use any church software e.g. iKnow, Church Suite, occasional offices suite Yes/ No. If yes

Which software does your church use? Please tick all that apply

iKnow,
Church Suite,
Occasional offices suite
Other <text box>

6. Mission:
Churches often tell us that the questions we ask do not celebrate the whole story of their church in their communities.

6.1.   Please use the text box below to tell us about the highlight of 2025 for your church.

6.2.   Please use the text box below to tell us about anything that successfully attracted new people to your church or to your activities.

7. Other comments:

Please use the text box below to comment on any aspect of the life of your church that may have affected your responses to these questions.