

## Oxford Diocese Articles of Enquiry questions for 2024

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 2023 Articles of Enquiry. Mark Humphriss, Diocesan Secretary, has also written to explain how the information has been used. You can see the summary of the findings here: [Archdeacons' Articles of Enquiry 2023 - Diocese of Oxford \(anglican.org\)](https://www.anglican.org.uk/news/2023/12/14/archdeacons-articles-of-enquiry-2023)

This year we are asking a variety of questions and have made sure that it will not take too long 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 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 Venerable David Tyler, Archdeacon of Dorchester

The Revd Preb Jane Haslam, Associate Archdeacon of Dorchester

### Articles of Enquiry 2024 Questions

#### 1) Environment

(1) Heating:

(a) Is your heating

(i) gas or oil

(ii) other

(b) If gas or oil, approximately when was your boiler installed:

Less than 5 years ago, 5-9 years ago, 10-14 years ago, 15 years ago or more

(2) Energy Audit:

(a) If your church has had an energy audit, what action have you taken from its recommendations? Please use the box below to let us know what action you have taken and how we can help you take the next steps e.g., guidance, funding etc.

- (b) If your church has NOT had an energy audit, please use the box below to let us know why and how we might help.

## **b) Children and Young People**

- (1) Excluding clergy, how many volunteers and paid staff are there in your parish leading or co-leading church groups with children and young people on a Sunday or midweek (whether they are held in your church buildings or elsewhere)?
- Number
- (i) paid full time
  - (ii) Paid part time
  - (iii) volunteers

## **c) Poverty and Social Action**

Social action and social justice are linked but are two different types of responses to poverty and inequality. Social action is often seen as responding to human need by meeting the immediate needs of our neighbours. Social justice, however, is more about transforming unjust structures of society, for example, through campaigning, speaking to MPs or employers, speaking up against discriminatory decisions, setting up initiatives that tackle the root problem of an aspect of poverty or inequality.

During 2023 has your PCC and/or church leadership:

- (a) Discussed how they might respond to poverty and inequality in the UK with a social justice response (e.g., start an initiative that seeks to address the source/root of an issue, be involved in campaigning, writing to local MP). Yes/No
- (b) Through sermons, visiting speakers, or small groups discussed topics of social justice (e.g., an awareness day/month, World Homelessness Day, CAP Sunday etc) and how this connects with faith.-Yes/No
- (c) Begun or continued an initiative to tackle a social justice issue (e.g., a social supermarket that provides accessible food prices; a jobs club to equip people with the skills to access work; digital/computer training to allow participation in much of the world) either alone or with other churches, charities, or community organisations. Yes/No
- (d) Taken part in a national or local campaign on an issue of poverty and inequality in the UK (e.g., action with Citizens UK on fair wages or the Illegal Migration Bill; The Big One climate, cost of living pilgrimage walk and protest). Yes/No
- (e) Built church relationships with MPs and/or local councillors over national or local policy or issues experienced by people in your communities. Yes/No

d) Discipleship

(1) During 2023 has your parish offered House Groups to help both established and new members of the congregation to explore the Christian faith? Yes/ no

If yes

- a. How many house groups did you run?
- b. How often did these meet? Weekly/ fortnightly/ monthly/ other

2. During 2023 did your parish offer opportunities to help people explore prayer, their gifts and vocation through:

- a. Quiet Days,
- b. Prayer Groups,
- c. Gifts for Everyday Faith,
- d. Personal Discipleship Plans
- e. Other

e) Finance

(1) Did you have a Giving/ Gift/ Stewardship Sunday during 2023? Yes/ No/ Unsure.

(2) If yes,

- (a) were people asked to reaffirm their level of committed giving/ begin regular giving? Yes/ No /unsure.
- (b) Were people asked to make a one-off donation towards the work of your church? Yes/ No / Unsure.

f) Mission:

(1) Please use the text box below to tell us about the highlight of 2023 for your church.

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

g) Other comments:

(1) Please use the text box below to comment on any aspect of the life of your church that may have affected any of your responses to these Articles of Enquiry:

Bev Botting

November 2023