

OXFORD DIOCESAN SYNOD

17 March 2018

FIRST NOTICE PAPER

QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 70

Question:

Mr Gavin Oldham (116) General Synod Member (and Wendover Deanery), to ask the Secretary of the Diocesan Synod:-

“What proportion of parishes in the Diocese of Oxford actively maintain their page on the Church of England website ‘A Church Near You’, and will the Diocese actively encourage those and other parishes to include their community action activities (i.e. Food Bank, Street Pastors, Debt Counselling, etc..) on the site: acknowledging that these activities are the Church’s living witness to ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’, and therefore particularly appropriate in our mission to those who have little knowledge of, and may see no relevance for, the Christian faith in their lives?”

Response:

The Diocesan Secretary, as Secretary of Synod, to reply:

Presently there isn’t the facility to analyse how recently and frequently parishes update ‘A Church Near You’, though this is something the national team are working on.

In the coming weeks the national team will be checking for pages that haven’t been edited and emailing local clergy with pages yet to claim. The team then hopes to develop a diocesan dashboard to provide a wide range of data about A Church Near You to our communications team who can work with both parishes who haven’t yet engaged with the system and those who are keen to do more.

Meanwhile, Phase two of A Church Near You is currently underway and this will include the facility for page editors to access analytics. It’s hoped that this will show the need for pages to be kept up to date and encourage clergy thinking more strategically about their digital mission.

A Church Near You was originally developed in the Diocese of Oxford and we’re keen to see it thrive in its new form. As more parishes begin to update their profiles we will encourage them to include information such as social justice campaigns and community action. We are also keen to showcase highly populated and engaging pages in diocesan publications such as *the Door* and our social media channels.