

2025 Articles of Enquiry introduction and questions

1. Introduction

Oxford Diocese Articles of Enquiry questions for 2025

As we write we firstly want to thank you for all you are doing in your churches and communities – the many ways you serve and witness. Secondly, we are contacting you to ask for your help with this year's Archdeacons' Articles of Enquiry.

The information you have provided previously has made a real difference to the way we, as a Diocese, serve you and your churches. The information has been especially helpful this year as we seek national funding to resource the work you do in your school, churches and communities with children and young people.

This year we are again asking a variety of questions and have tried to make 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, Associate Archdeacon of Oxford

The Venerable David Tyler, Archdeacon of Dorchester

The Revd Preb Jane Haslam, Associate Archdeacon of Dorchester

2. Discipleship

During 2024, outside your regular worshipping life of prayer, Bible study, and sermons,

Q1A Did your church offer anything else to help your congregation grow in their faith? Yes/ NO
if yes what did you offer? <text box>

Q1B Did your church offer anything else to help your congregation gain more confidence to share their faith with others? Yes/ No
if Yes what did you offer? <text box>

3. Church Welcome

3.1. A church community is only complete when all are welcomed and able to belong. We would like to understand your PCC's approach to actively welcoming all members of the parish community.

Q2A During 2024 did your church have any of the following initiatives in place to intentionally improve the welcome and participation of under-represented members of the community?

Each item has a tick box – please tick all that apply. YES / NO

- Sermon/Homily being preached in British Sign Language
- Translation of the ordinary service sheet into other languages
- Use of neurodiverse friendly fonts in printed materials or provision of coloured overlays
- Prayer groups in languages other than English
- Sunday service in languages other than English
- Working alongside Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities
- Other <text box>

Q2B. Please use this text box to describe these initiatives and how they are making a difference: <text box>

Q2C What guidance could the diocese offer to help your parish activities enable under-represented members of your parish to be involved with and belong to your church community: (tick all that apply)

How to improve access to and within your buildings

How to conduct church activities that include people of various backgrounds and needs

How to ensure that our liturgy is accessible to and includes people of various backgrounds and needs

How to attract and recruit a diverse range of candidates into your paid or unpaid roles

Training in equality, diversity and unconscious bias for PCC members

Other support: please use this box to let us know what other support we could offer your PCC. <text box>

4. Children and Young People

Q3A Does your church offer church worship and/or activities suitable for all ages at least monthly?
YES/ NO

Q3B During 2024 how many children, young people and young adults actively participated in worship and in planning ministries or services in your church?*(young adults are defined as those aged 18-30)*:

	<i>Number of children and young people</i>	<i>Number of young adults aged 18-30</i>
Sunday church choirs or Sunday/midweek worship bands		
Bible readings		
Prayers		
Leading services		
Taking on a role in the sacraments e.g. carrying the candle		
Planning services, events, or outreach ministries		
Involved in/supporting church activities such as Eco Church, Foodbanks, or other outreach ministries		
Involved in social action (eg with community projects or fundraising etc),		
Involved in social justice (eg with campaigns or community organising etc)		

Please use this text box to tell us about any of these activities <text box >

5. Environment

Q4A Does your church have LED lighting installed: <please tick one box>

- In some of the church and associated buildings
- In all the church and associated buildings
- In none of the church and associated buildings

Q4B Please tick here if you do not have a churchyard <> - if they tick here please route to next question (Q5A)

During 2024 did your church participate in any of the following? < Yes/ No tick boxes>

- No Mow May
- Churches Count on Nature or other site surveys
- Outdoor church services (including children's church services)
- Other churchyard work to support nature/biodiversity (e.g. installing bird boxes, plants for pollinators) <text box>

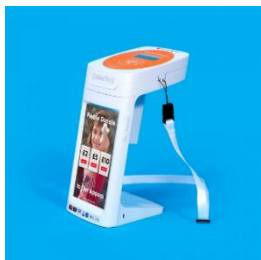


Does your church have a written plan for managing the churchyard that seeks to improve biodiversity?

- Yes
- We have a churchyard management plan but it does not currently include improvements in biodiversity
- No

6. Finance

Q5A Does your church have one or more digital card payment devices to collect card payments. Yes/ No.

If yes, do they look like any of the photographs below. Please tick all that apply.

		
<p>CollecTin More</p>	<p>DONA Digital Collection Plate</p>	<p>GoodBox Core</p>
		
<p>GWD Midi</p>	<p>GWD skinny</p>	<p>PayaCharity A920</p>
		
<p>Payaz Giving Station</p>	<p>Visa SumUp Tap & Pay</p>	

If you don't see your device listed here, please let us know what device you have by typing in this box. <text box>

Q5B Does your treasurer or the person responsible for your church's accounts use any software to help with your account keeping? Yes/ No

If yes is it (these should all have a tick box next to them with the instruction 'you can tick more than one'):

- Aplos
- Excel,
- Finance coordinator,
- FreshBooks
- Intuit QuickBooks
- Myfundaccounting,
- PowerChurch
- Realm
- Wave Accounting
- Xero
- Zoho Book
- Unknown
- Other. Please use this box to let us know what you use <text box>

7. Buildings

Q6A Does your church have a kitchen and/ or toilet facilities in your church building or churchyard?

A kitchen should, as a minimum, have a tap with drinking water, a sink, and a means of making hot drinks and heating food.

Please select one option for each facility.

Toilet WC: Yes in the church building
 Yes in the church yard/ another building
 NO

Kitchen: Yes in the church building
 Yes in the church yard/ another building
 NO

Bev Botting

November 2024