

# INITIAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENT FOR CONSULTATION ON PASTORAL PROVISION IN THE DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA



These pages hope to sketch out the unsustainable reality that is being faced in the life of the Diocese of East Anglia, to help the synodal process of consultation that is underway. The figures given here should form the basis of your discussions and responses to questions posed by the Bishop.

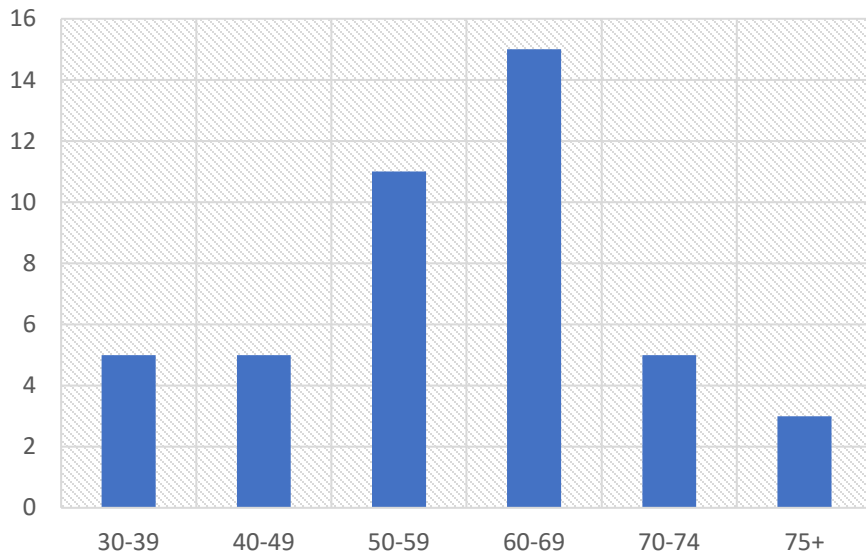
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*The future of the Church, once again as always, will be reshaped by saints, by those, that is, whose minds probe deeper than the slogans of the day, who see more than others see, because their lives embrace a wider reality.*

*POPE BENEDICT XVI, (Faith and the Future)*

## One side of the equation: FEWER DIOCESAN CLERGY

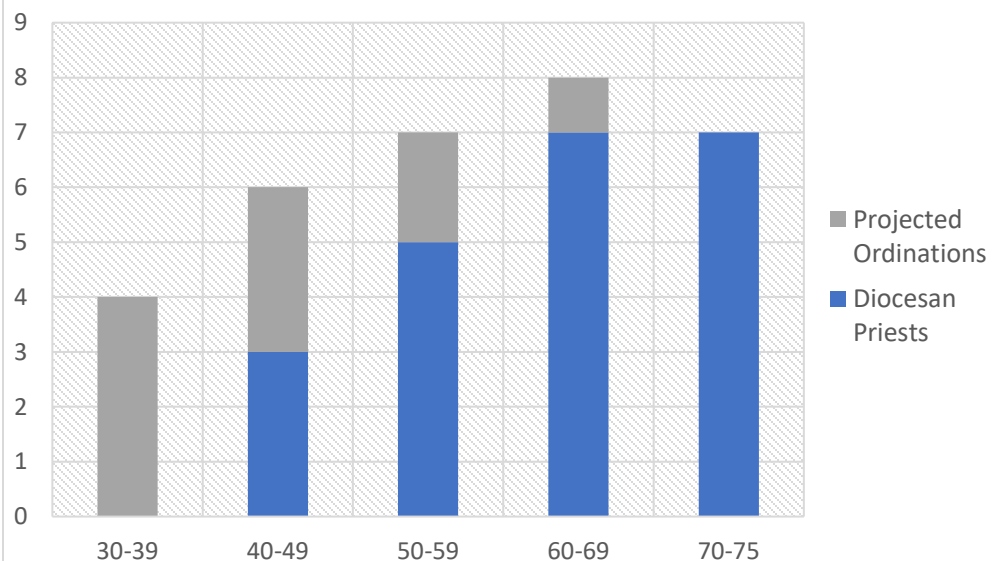
PRIESTS OF EAST ANGLIA ACTIVE IN  
THE DIOCESE BY AGE GROUP



Many parishes in the Diocese are cared for by priests from outside of East Anglia. This generous service can mask that the Diocese now has fewer of its own priests than it has parishes. **Presently, the diocese has a total of 44 active priests from which to appoint to 52 parishes.**

More than half of the priests of the diocese are over 60 years of age, and the number of new priests each year is regularly lower than the number of priests retiring. For this reason, **in 10 years' time, there will only be around 30 priests of the Diocese of East Anglia in active ministry, with only 10 priests under the age of 50.**

PROJECTED AGE PROFILE OF EAST ANGLIAN  
PRIESTS IN 10 YEAR'S TIME



*This chart has assumed an average of one ordination a year, shared proportionally between age groups.*

*From the crisis of today the Church of tomorrow will emerge—a Church that has lost much. She will become small and will have to start afresh more or less from the beginning. She will no longer be able to inhabit many of the buildings she built in prosperity. In contrast to an earlier age, she will be seen much more as a voluntary society, entered only by free decision. As a small society, she will make much bigger demands on the initiative of her individual members... But in all of the changes at which one might guess, the Church will find her essence afresh and with full conviction in that which was always at her centre: faith in the triune God, in Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, in the presence of the Spirit until the end of the world.*

*POPE BENEDICT XVI, (Faith and the Future)*

*The other side of the equation:*

## **GREATER MASS ATTENDANCE**

The tables on the following pages, based on last year's Diocesan Pastoral Statistics, show how uneven the growing Mass attendance across the diocese is. The most striking points are:

- 2** parishes served **25% of the faithful in the diocese**, as many as the smallest 33 parishes
- 8** parishes served **one half of the diocesan faithful**, whilst **44** served the other
- Half** of the parishes in the diocese, and therefore a great proportion of the priests, each **only serve 1% or less** of the total number of people who attend Mass across the diocese
- 13** of the smallest parishes in the diocese are 15 minutes' drive or less to the nearest other parish

## 1. MASS ATTENDANCE IN THE DIOCESE BY PARISH

Parish	Mass Attendance '23	Percentage of Total	Range	Number of Parishes
CAMBRIDGE, OLEM	3944	21.8%	<i>Upper Quartile</i>	2
NORWICH, The Cathedral	1154	6.4%		
PETERBOROUGH, St Peter and All Souls	820	4.5%	<i>Upper Mid Quartile</i>	6
CAMBRIDGE, St Philip Howard	740	4.1%		
PETERBOROUGH, St Luke	737	4.1%		
CAMBRIDGE, St Laurence	637	3.5%		
BURY ST EDMUNDS	626	3.5%		
HUNTINGTON	531	2.9%		
IPSWICH, St Mary	528	2.9%	<i>Lower Mid Quartile</i>	11
PETERBOROUGH, Sacred Heart & St Oswald	527	2.9%		
KINGS LYNN	509	2.8%		
SAWSTON & CAMBOURNE	414	2.3%		
NORWICH, St George	378	2.1%		
ST IVES	374	2.1%		
IPSWICH, ST Pancras	334	1.8%		
HAVERHILL	312	1.7%		
ELY	267	1.5%		
GREAT YARMOUTH	253	1.4%		
WYMONDHAM	234	1.3%		
NEWMARKET	225	1.2%	<i>Lower Quartile</i>	33
NORTH WALSHAM	211	1.2%		
GORLESTON	210	1.2%		
LOWESTOFT	207	1.1%		
ST NEOTS	201	1.1%		
SUDBURY & HADLEIGH	199	1.1%		
COSTESSEY	196	1.1%		
IPSWICH, St Marks	176	1.0%		
FELIXSTOWE	175	1.0%		
WISBECH	175	1.0%		
SHERINGHAM & CROMER	168	0.9%		
SWAFFAM	166	0.9%		
DEREHAM	165	0.9%		
WOODBIDGE & FRAMLINGHAM	156	0.9%		
THETFORD	150	0.8%		

WALSINGHAM & WELLS-NEXT-SEA	148	0.8%		
BUCKDEN	147	0.8%		
MARCH	146	0.8%		
STOWMARKET	145	0.8%		
BECCLES	139	0.8%		
CLARE	137	0.8%		
ALDEBURGH & LEISTON	123	0.7%		
BUNGAY	122	0.7%		
HUNSTANTON	119	0.7%		
PORINGLAND	117	0.6%		
IPSWICH, St Mary Magdalen	116	0.6%		
DISS	110	0.6%		
WHITTLESESY & RAMSEY	99	0.5%		
SOUTHWOLD	88	0.5%		
FAKENHAM	83	0.5%		
IPSWICH, St James the Less	67	0.4%		
DOWNHAM MARKET	61	0.3%		
BRANDON & MILDENHALL	55	0.3%		

*The Church will be a more spiritual Church...as the process of crystallization and clarification will cost her much valuable energy. It will make her poor and cause her to become the Church of the meek... But when the trial of this sifting is past, **a great power will flow from a more spiritualized and simplified Church.***

*POPE BENEDICT XVI, (Faith and the Future)*

**2. DIOCESAN PARISHES IN THE LOWER QUARTILE OF DIOCESAN PROVISION ORDERED BY DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST OTHER PARISH**

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Percentage of Diocesan Total</b>	<b>Approx. Drive in minutes to nearest other Parish</b>
IPSWICH, St James the Less	0.4%	10
IPSWICH, St Mary Magdalen	0.6%	10
IPSWICH, St Marks	1.0%	10
ST NEOTS	1.1%	10
BRANDON & MILDENHALL	0.3%	15
FAKENHAM	0.5%	15
PORINGLAND	0.6%	15
BUNGAY	0.7%	15
BECCLES	0.8%	15
WALSINGHAM & WELLS-NEXT-SEA	0.8%	15
THETFORD	0.8%	15
COSTESSEY	1.1%	15
GORLESTON	1.2%	15
DEREHAM	0.9%	20
SWAFFAM	0.9%	20
WISBECH	1.0%	20
SUDBURY & HADLEIGH	1.1%	20
LOWESTOFT	1.1%	20
NORTH WALSHAM	1.2%	20
WHITTLESESY & RAMSEY	0.5%	22
MARCH	0.8%	22
WOODBIDGE & FRAMLINGHAM	0.9%	22
FELIXSTOWE	1.0%	22
STOWMARKET	0.8%	23
DOWNHAM MARKET	0.3%	25
NEWMARKET	1.2%	25
DISS	0.6%	26
SOUTHWOLD	0.5%	30
HUNSTANTON	0.7%	30
ALDEBURGH & LEISTON	0.7%	30
SHERINGHAM & CROMER	0.9%	30