



Diocesan Synod, Question Time

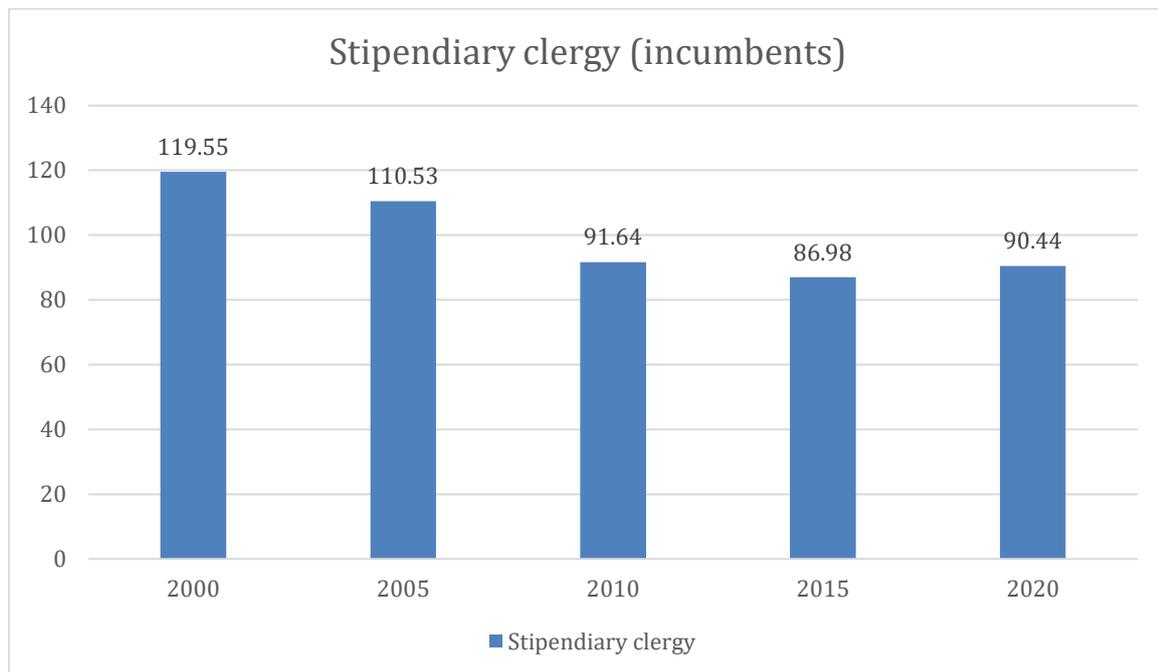
13th November 2021

From Revd Canon Gwyn Owen (Bristol South):

What were the numbers of full time (equivalent) Stipended Parish Clergy (excluding curates and externally funded posts) in the Diocese of Bristol for the years 2000,2005,2010 and 2020?

Matthew Hall, Acting Diocesan Secretary, to answer:

Based on figures derived from our accounting records of stipends paid, the graph below shows the actual, average annual number of FTE stipendiary clergy over the period in question.



These figures include the impact of vacant posts and therefore do not equate to the total number of stipendiary clergy posts in the Diocese. The total number of FTE posts in 2020 was 99.87, compared to 109 in 2010.

The figure for 2020 includes 4.4 posts that are funded by Strategic Development Funding (SDF), but these posts will be funded from the DBF's main budget from 2022 onwards as that transitional funding comes to an end. There would also have been "externally funded posts" in 2000, 2005, and 2010 but these are not recorded separately because that funding was not 'restricted' to those posts. In 2017, national

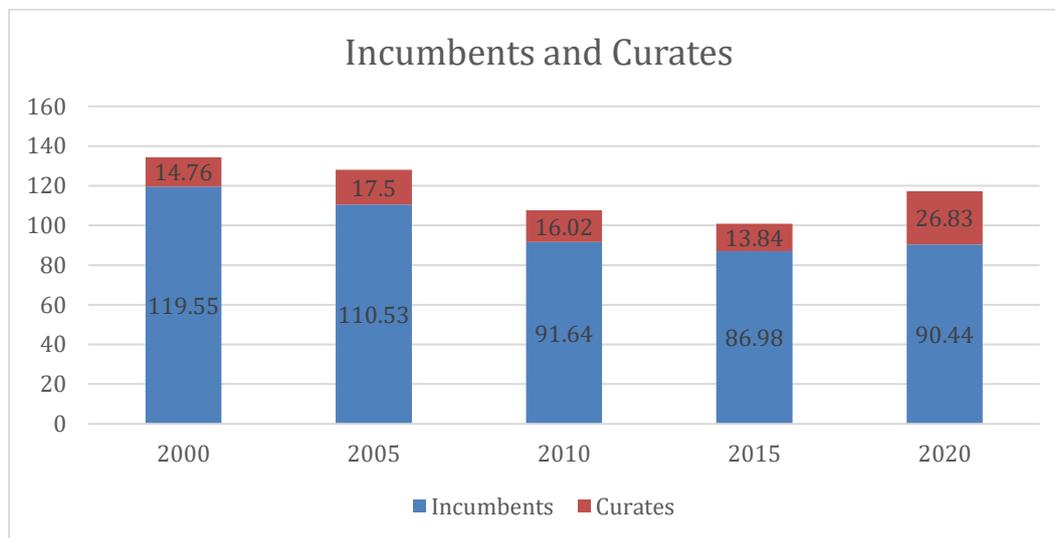
Church funding changed in such a way as to mean that more of those posts would need to be restricted.

Clearly there was a marked decrease in the number of stipendiary posts from 2000 to 2010. Much of this related to planned reductions that formed part of the 2005-2010 Diocesan Strategy in particular, but also reflected earlier plans to address the DBF's financial sustainability.

In 2010, further reductions were planned, in part because the original reductions had not been achieved and in part because the Parish Share model at that time had diminished financial resources further.

Two other graphs may also help inform this situation.

The first is to add the number of stipendiary curates to the incumbents (above), calculated on the same basis. This demonstrates the marked increase in curacies and investment in future ministry as part of the 2016-20 Strategic Plan.



The second is the level of expenditure on incumbent stipends in recent years. This shows how overall spending on stipendiary incumbent posts has increased over this period.

