

18 December 2020

Sent to all Incumbents, Churchwardens, PCC Secretaries

cc: Archdeacons

Statistics for Mission 2020

No doubt your preparations are well underway by now for Christmas and Statistics for Mission!

Appreciative of the busyness of the festive season and New Year, we continue to be grateful for the annual collation and entering of statistics about how your church has been engaged with God's mission the past year and know that this is just one of many ways in which parishes support our work centrally. Thank you.

Last year 85% of our churches provided information, a number that we would hope to increase, as it is increasingly important to both the National Church and the diocese's analysis of trends, to enable the focussing of our support and discerned stewardship of our resources.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many of our church buildings were closed for a large part of 2020. We recognise the huge upheaval that churches have been through, and the amazing creativity and resilience that churches have displayed in continuing to offer worship and pastoral support to their congregations, parishioners and the wider community during this difficult time.

We would like to celebrate and capture this through the collection of Statistics for Mission for 2020. As such, the form is a bit different this year, and we realise that there may be sections that are harder than usual to answer in this context. We're keen to find out anything you *can* tell us, and your best approximation is fine if you don't have precise numbers. Please don't worry about anything you do not feel able to answer. We also recognise that attendance at services held in church buildings will be impacted by social distancing and complex cleaning arrangements, so please be reassured that the data for 2020 will be used carefully by the National Church and us as a diocese.

I attach a FAQ at appendix 1.

For the collection of the data relating to 2020 we will continue to use the National Church online return system. You should have a key contact (known as a "Parish Administrator" on the system), who will be responsible for entering the data on behalf of your churches and parish(es). If you do not have someone to carry out this role in your parish (I know there is a small number of parishes who don't) please contact Alison Barker or Lorna Todd by emailing: statistics@cofesuffolk.org or telephoning 01473 298500 and they will be able to issue login details.

I have also attached at appendix 2, the guidance for using the system.

Diocesan Office, St Nicholas Centre, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ
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The deadline for the submission of the Stats for Mission is 31 January 2021. Appendix 3 is a copy of the form requiring completion online.

Early in the New Year, we will send out a timetable of when we expect to contact parishes to collect other information.

If you have any questions or queries about this, or any other data-related matters, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Once again, thank you for your contribution to mission and ministry throughout the diocese, it is very much appreciated, especially in light of the continuing challenging circumstances we face.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas with all the best for the coming year.

Kind regards



Anna Hughes
Diocesan Secretary