

# Our Shared Future

Diocesan Synod - November 2024

*Archdeacon Missioner:*

**Barry Dugmore**

*Diocesan Secretary and CEO:*

**Jacqueline Ladds**

# What we have in Our Hands

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The diocese is home to around **895 thousand people** across Coventry and Warwickshire

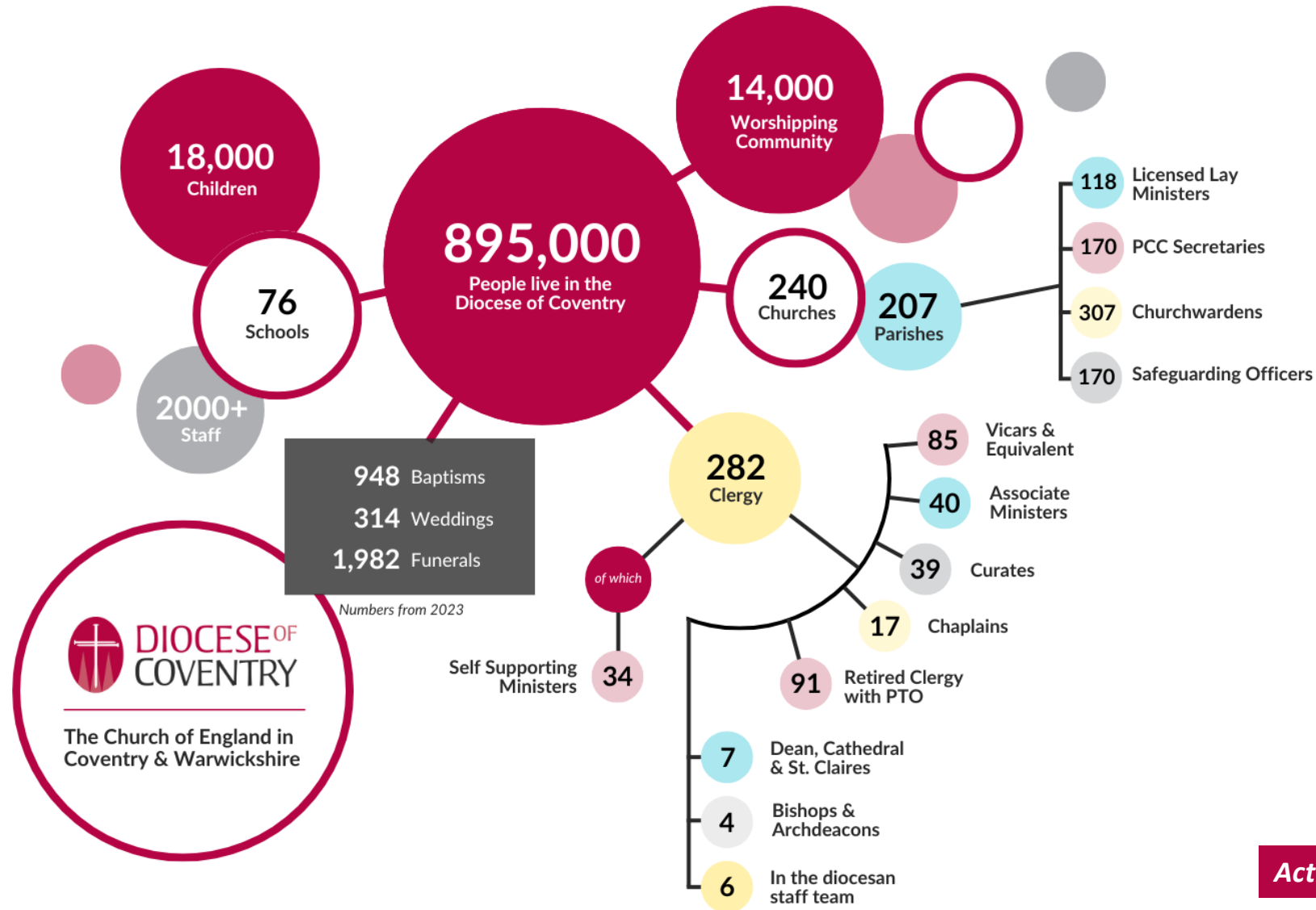
**70% of the population** live across four urban areas of Coventry, Leamington, Nuneaton and Rugby

**Two thirds** of our parishes are categorized as **rural or semi rural**

2 major universities and **60,000 term time students**

Approximately **39%** of the population in Coventry is GMH / UKME compared to **19%** in Warwickshire

# What we have in Our Hands



Active posts not a headcount

# Current Challenges

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**Ageing and declining congregations**

**Lack of children and young people in our churches**

**Missional and financial cost of church buildings**

**20 of our parishes are in the 20% highest deprivation in the UK**

**Decline in giving and resourcing an ambitious vision for growth**

**Wider Church factors, LLF & PLF, national safeguarding**

# 5 Year Attendance Trend

**57** Parishes recording growth

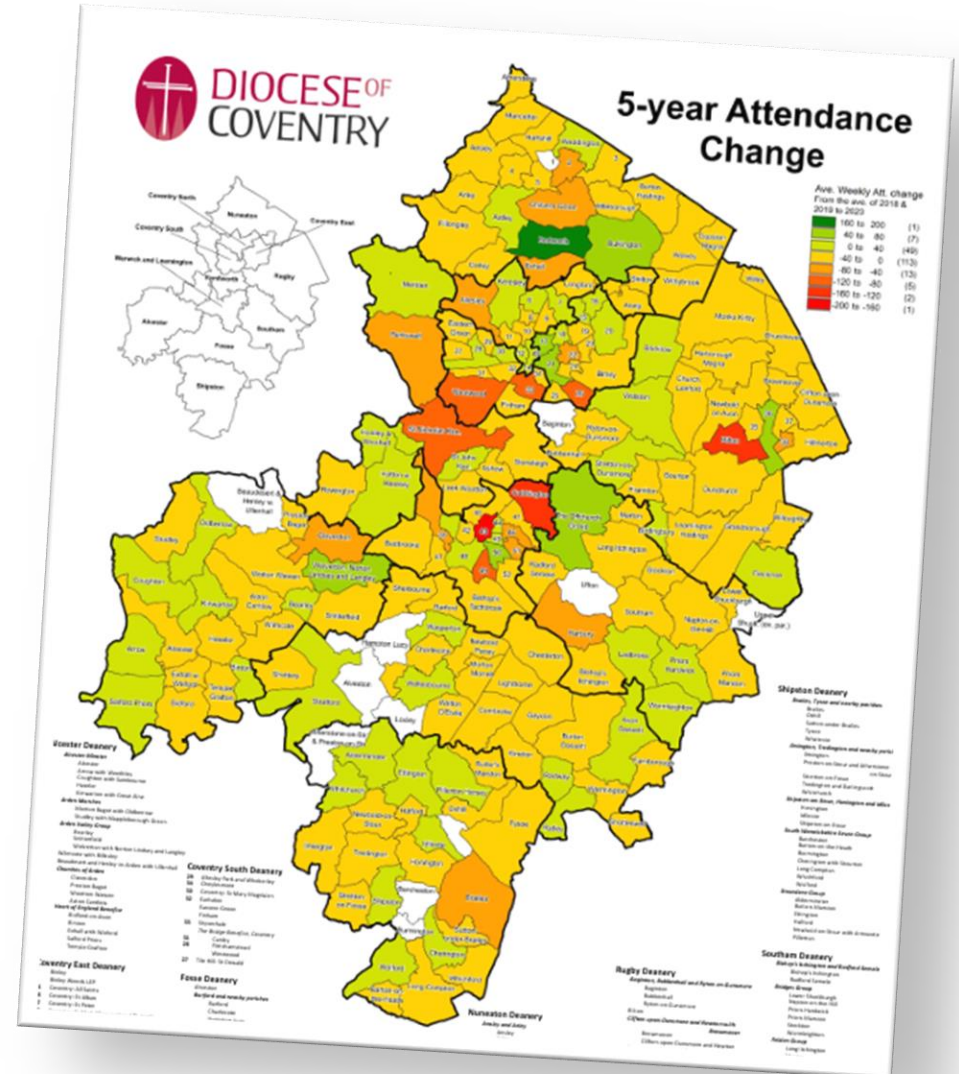
**8** Recording growth of more than 40 people

**134** Parishes reporting a decline in attendance

**21** Recording a decline of more than 40 people

**Green** = Growth

**Red & Yellow** = Decline



# Our Current Vision & Strategy

## OUR VISION

As we emerged from the pandemic and looked ahead to 2030 Bishop Christopher brought a timely vision for the diocese to be bearers of life, bringers of life, agents of life. \*

## TO BE BEARERS OF LIFE WHO SEE

That we would be a family of parishes and church communities, some ancient, some more recent, schools, chaplaincies, charities, and Cathedral that are life-bearing, life-bringing, agents of God's purposes of life in the world. Partners together, reaching every part of society, with the good news of God's energising, empowering, life-giving love.

RESTORED HEALTH

RENEWED RELATIONSHIPS

NEW GROWTH



*"...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*

John 10:10

## OUR SHARED FUTURE

This is our strategic framework setting out how we will achieve our vision and mission purpose.

It is a maturing of the key priorities, outcomes and existing key commitments set out in the 2023 framework.

### 7 Workstreams

- Healthy Churches
- Healthy Communities
- New Worshipping Communities
- Children, Young People and Families
- Growing Leaders
- Renewing the Environment
- Loving One Another

### 3 Underpinning Works

- Healthy People
- Renewing Generosity
- Parish Support

# Our Current Strategic Focus

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## Strategy for Growth

- Includes Mission Hubs, church planting and parish revitalisation, new worshipping communities, growing a pipeline of lay leaders,
  - Partnering with Together For Change to transform communities
  - Partnering with the Board of Education to bring a faith connection between schools, parishes and home
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- Towards Net Zero

## Alongside

- central support for healthy churches, evangelism, growing faith, learning
- Focused central support for stewardship, HR, buildings, parish grants for example
- and the core work of the diocesan staff team



# What We've Learnt

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1. We need to build on the work we have done
2. Fully understand the root causes of our missional challenges
3. Articulate the change for a thriving and flourishing diocese
4. Focus our vision and strategy on addressing the root causes
5. Develop a 10 year road map for change
6. Engage & enable our parishes to further contribute to this vision
7. Strengthen our prayers for growth across the diocese





# What's Next?

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## Readying ourselves for the spring



**Preparing the full  
picture for our  
next Bishop**



**Doing the groundwork for a  
significant investment  
partnership with national church**

# Reflecting on our Vision

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**Dwelling in John's gospel, chapter 10**

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- Ends -