

Thank you

On behalf of the Charity – we thank you for your kindness and generosity in offering financial support

We ALSO ask you to remember in your prayers ALL of our priest.

For those who are well and working in our parishes

For those undertaking other work on behalf of our diocese

For those who are sick or infirm at this time

For those who are retired

Our Contact Details:

Our **New Registered Office** Address is:

The Johnson Association, 17 Birch Green Grove, Stoke on Trent, ST1 6RD

Our Administrator is

Fr David Doran. St Peter's Presbytery, 208 High Street, Bloxwich, WS3 3LA.

Email: secretary.johnsonassociation@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.johnsonassociation.org

Online Donations can be made via the Website

or **using a smartphone:**



Registered Charity Number 238681

The Johnson Association

Known as the Johnson Fund

or The Secular Clergy Association of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Autumn 2024

Dear Friends,

I write to you, at this time, to thank so many of you who have been so generous in your support of the Johnson Association over many many years. Your donations enable us to provide dignified care and support for our retired, sick and infirm clergy of the Archdiocese of Birmingham who have dedicated a lifetime of service to Christ and His people. On behalf of all of my brother priest, I would like you to know we are sincerely thankful for your generosity of heart.

Let me introduce myself.



I am Fr David Doran, and I am the Administrator of the Johnson Association. I was elected to take over its smooth running in July 2023 and after a handover period from Canon Paul Fitzpatrick, I now work on behalf of the Trustees and members to administer the Johnson Fund. I am continuing a long line of Administrators which dates back to the foundation of the Charity in 1710. We are coming up to our 315 year in operation !

This next 12 months will be an important 12 months for the Charity- not only because of the care we continue to provide – but because we are changing. We will, at the end of this financial year, become known as

The Johnson Clergy Association (Birmingham) CIO.

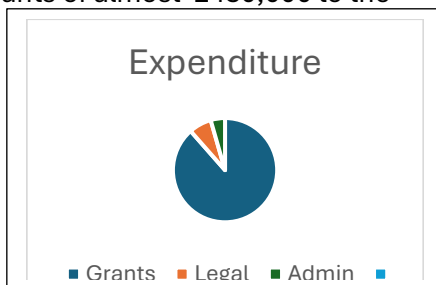
We will have a new Charity Number and you will see no other real changes It is a bit like being a limited company for Charities.

About our Sick and Retired Clergy

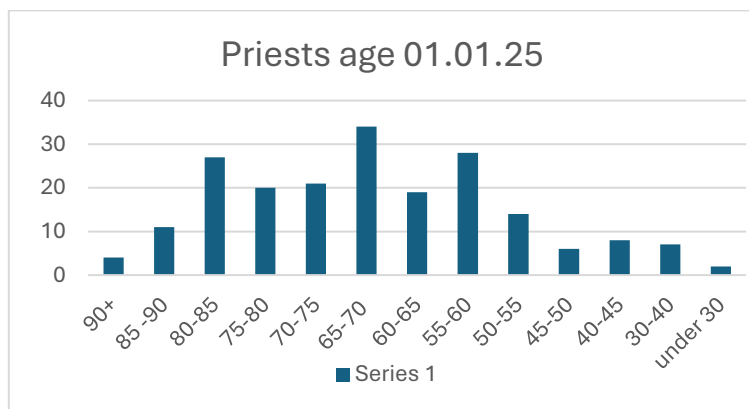
With the generous help of people like you, The Johnson Association cares for over 65 elderly or unwell priests each year. Over the next ten years, we expect a further 55 priests to retire from active ministry. – and who knows how many might fall sick.

In the last financial year we awarded grants of almost £430,000 to the retired and sick clergy of the diocese.

Thank you for your generosity in making this possible. Our Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2024 was
88.52% Grants
7.03% legal Fees
4.45% Admin



Below is a graph of expected, Diocesan Priests, ages on 1st January 2025. All Priests have to offer their resignation at the age of 75. Therefore if we take a look at ALL those presently over 65 years of age we can expect up to 55 priests to retire in the next 10 years – and there are less than 20 priests under 50 years of age.



Fr Michael.

Fr Michael fell in the summer of 2023 and at the hospital was told that he had a major stroke. He knew that he was not going to be able to complete parish duties for a lengthy period of time.

Contact was made to the Johnson Association and help was provided to Fr Michael not only in his time in hospital but also whilst he recuperated at the home of one of his family members.

The great news is that he after surgery and an intense rehabilitation, and six months away from the parish, he is now back in the parish completing his pastoral duties once again for his parishioners.

Fr Michael wrote *“Thank You” to the Johnson Fund for the generous support during this difficult time of my life, it helps me to get help for the months to come. Thank you once again*

Fr Patrick Armstrong.



Rev. Father Patrick Armstrong who has chosen Bicester as his retirement home. Born in 1936, he was ordained in March 1971 and has served in parishes in Dudley Road, Lichfield, Sparkhill, Littlemore and Witney. Paradoxically, now that he has retired (2011) and is therefore not tied to a particular parish, he is busier now than when he was involved in parish ministry. The demands made on his time as supply cover for priests who are away from their parish for whatever reason and prompted by the overall shortage of priests in the diocese means that

on many weekends he is absent from Bicester and helping in other parishes.

Our Annual Appeal & Collection:

This year our Annual Appeal takes place on the weekend of 2nd & 3rd of November. We ask your continued generosity.

Gift Aid envelopes are available in each parish for those who are taxpayers and can gift aid their donation.

You can Donate using your debit or credit card via the website:

www.johnsonassociation.org

Or – using your smartphone scan the QR code on the rear of this leaflet which will take you to our Donation Page.

Please also remember us in your will – we are most grateful for all legacies received.