

Further information on the talk by The Right Reverend Dr David Walker:

“As a bishop, I'm interested in who goes to church and why? I want to know what attracts churchgoers, what matters to them in their faith, and how their religion is linked to the ways they participate in the wider life of their local community. As a statistician, I want to be working with more than just anecdote.

This talk is based on the findings of a number of research papers I have published in the academic press in recent years, using data gathered from three different surveys by myself or my research team colleagues. It looks at how people who practice religion are motivated, and what is different between regular churchgoers and those who attend occasionally. Religion remains, whether we accept its tenets or not, a very significant part of communal and public life. I hope this talk will help us to understand both religious practice and affiliation better.”

Born and raised in the Manchester area, David Walker is an old boy of The Manchester Grammar School. He went on to study mathematics and graduate as Second Wrangler from King's College, Cambridge. After 17 years in parish ministry in South Yorkshire, in 2000 David became the Church's youngest bishop at the age of 43, working in the Diocese of Worcester. In 2013 he returned home to be the 12th Bishop of Manchester since the diocese was founded in 1847. One of five "media bishops" David is a regular contributor to news and current affairs stories, whether religious or secular, for both commercial broadcasters and the BBC.