

Information for Enquirers

The Old Catholic Apostolic Church is a small church and although it has a worldwide presence on every continent, it does not enjoy a universal presence in the United Kingdom. There are six dioceses in the UK each with parishes and outreach and there are more of us than you might think. However, it may well be that you live in an area where we have no congregation nearby.

It is our hope that in the future we will have parishes close to everybody, but until that time we have 'gaps' in our coverage.

So what can you do if you want to join us, but there is no congregation near?

Answer: You can still join us anyway!

1. We have followers who attend Sunday worship at a local church of their choice but who are part of our worship in prayer and in online resource, social media etc. Some do not tell the 'Sunday' church that they are part of OCAC and others do - it is your choice. You can still access a priest, often by phone for support or advice, and if desired, reserved sacrament can be sent to you by post - so you can still be part of our worship. Many of these followers join one or more of our congregations for worship when they are in the area visiting, or they make a special journey every now and again. We don't have a register of lay members because we do not measure our church by 'bums on seats'.

2. We also have people who act as a contact point for others like you who want to join our progressive and yet traditional church. They are not in minor or holy orders, but act as a lay contact, maybe by holding a house group or prayer meeting. Of course, all that in 1. above applies too, it is just that you share in organizing it.

3. And we do have people who are admitted to the first minor order, so that they can sow the seeds of a congregation in their area. Even if they do not feel called to ministry, by doing the things in 2. above but as a minor cleric, others 'have something to join.' The member may then continue their serving into further orders if that is how God is calling them, or they may choose not to progress and hand over the work to someone else when there are others in the area. At all times you are part of the church body and you are not 'left alone' to get on with it. The important thing is to start the congregation growing.

...and if there is a congregation near:

If you are looking for large cathedral worship we are unlikely to be able to suit you - although we do hire large church buildings for such worship once or twice a year such as our synod. Most of our worship is small but meaningful. We hire church buildings (some parishes use the local Methodist building for example) or some of our parishes have their own small chapel, and others have an oratory - a room at a private house set aside for worship. We take our worship seriously - although the intent is that all should enjoy it - and we wear vestments, ring bells and burn incense; we hold real worship - just on a smaller and friendlier scale.

We also encourage social meetings too: visits out or a meal together, house groups, retreats, pub visits and so on.

Some of our parishes are very active indeed and others less so, some function as you would expect a typical 'parish church' to, and others are more chaplaincy or outreach based, like our OCAC Homeless Mission. In any event, if you are looking for a church which has a meaningful, embracing and welcoming outlook we would like you to join us.

Please get in touch with any of our clergy and tell them that you are enquiring to join. You will be made welcome, and we will endeavour to find the answer to your quest. You will find them on our website: www.liberalcatholics.co.uk, and go to directory, and then United Kingdom: www.liberalcatholics.co.uk/UK.html

Thank you for interest in our church.

Bishop Adrian

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