

APF/Missio Red Boxes Report 2024

The year on year decrease in the number of “active red boxes” (those red boxes handed in for emptying at least once during the year) has continued.....16 boxes in 2022, 12 boxes in 2023. This is largely due to people leaving the parish and no new box holders coming forward.

As a result, the money that we have been able to annually pay into Missio for the support of the missionary activities of the Church has fallen...£430 in 2022, £400 in 2023.

These trends are being seen both nationally and within the Archdiocese.

My view is that sadly the “Red Box Scheme” which started in France in the 19th century as a way of parishioners giving direct financial support to the overseas missions, will soon be yet another of our Catholic traditions that will disappear.

Many of us will remember a time when virtually every Catholic home would have a red box. While this is now sadly no longer the case, the church and the Catholic community will still need to find ways of funding the missionary church.