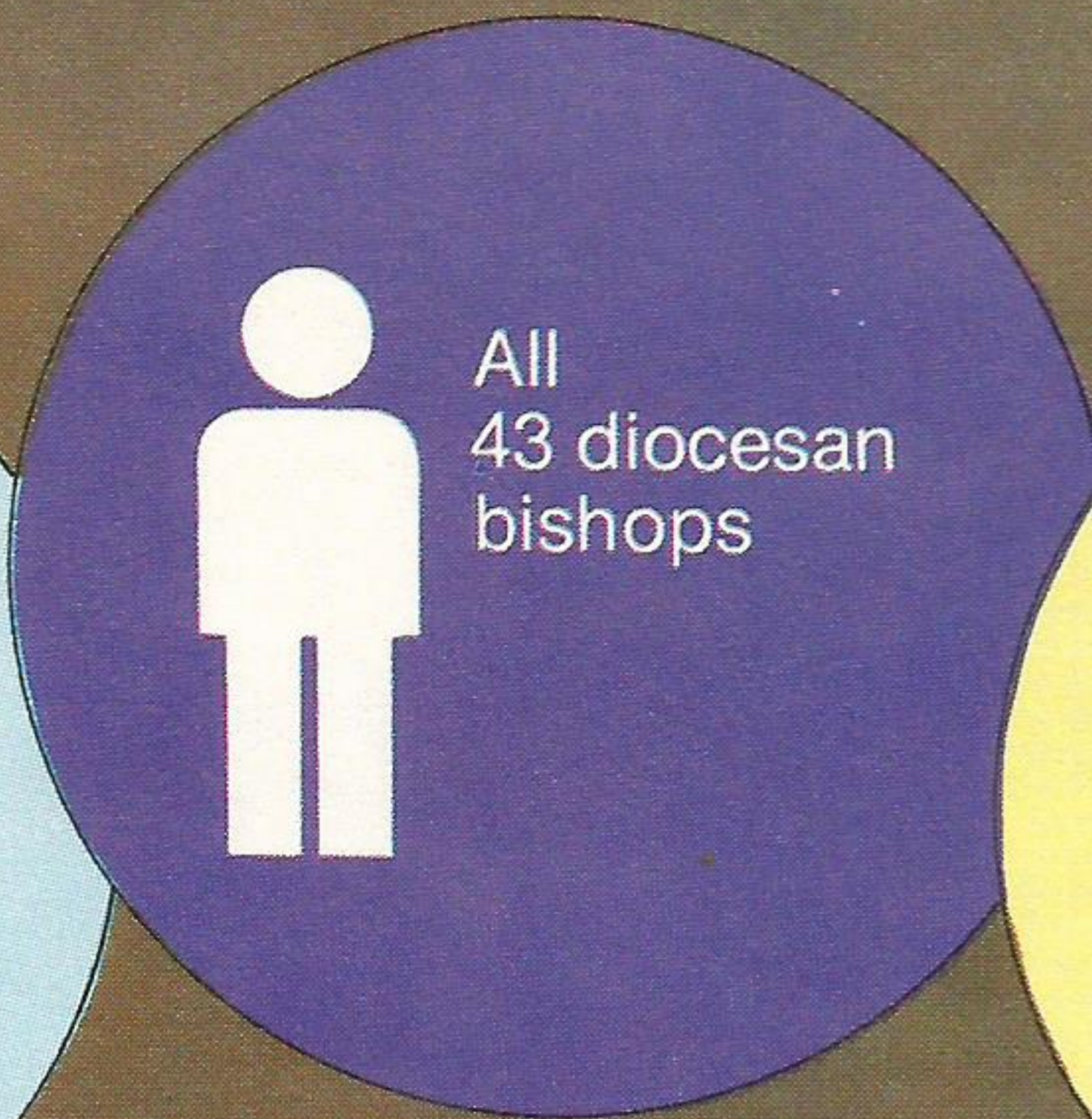
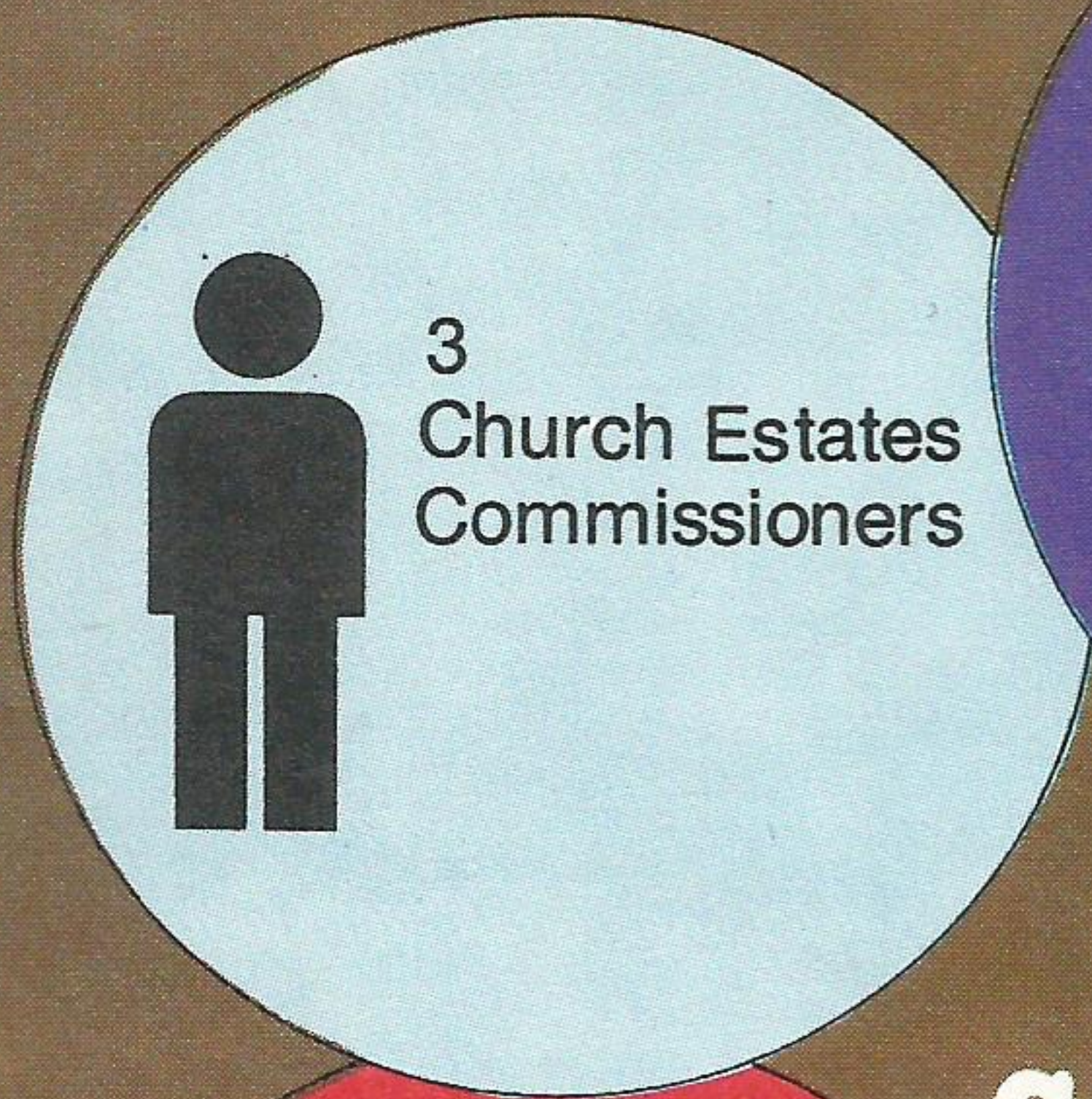
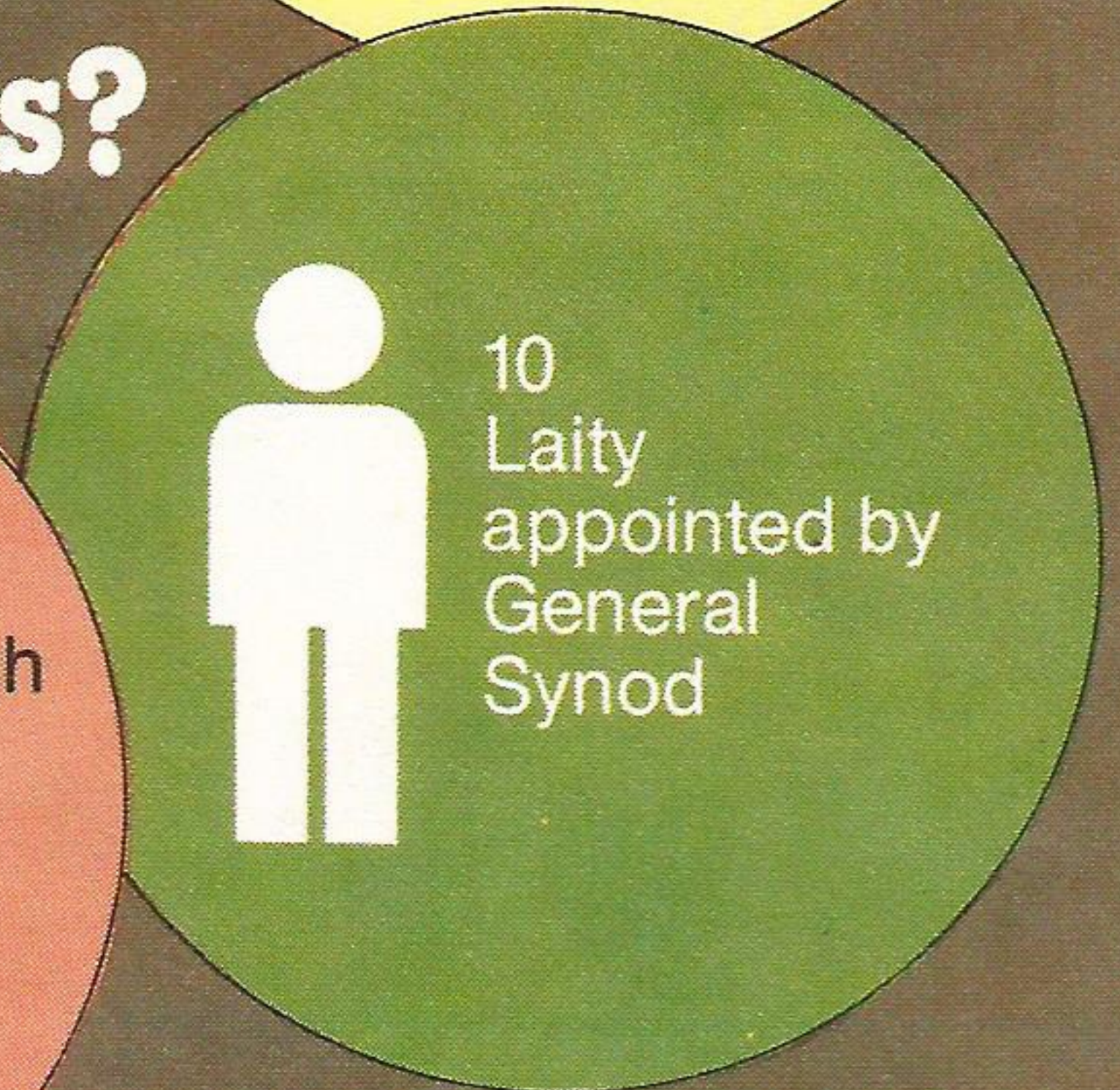
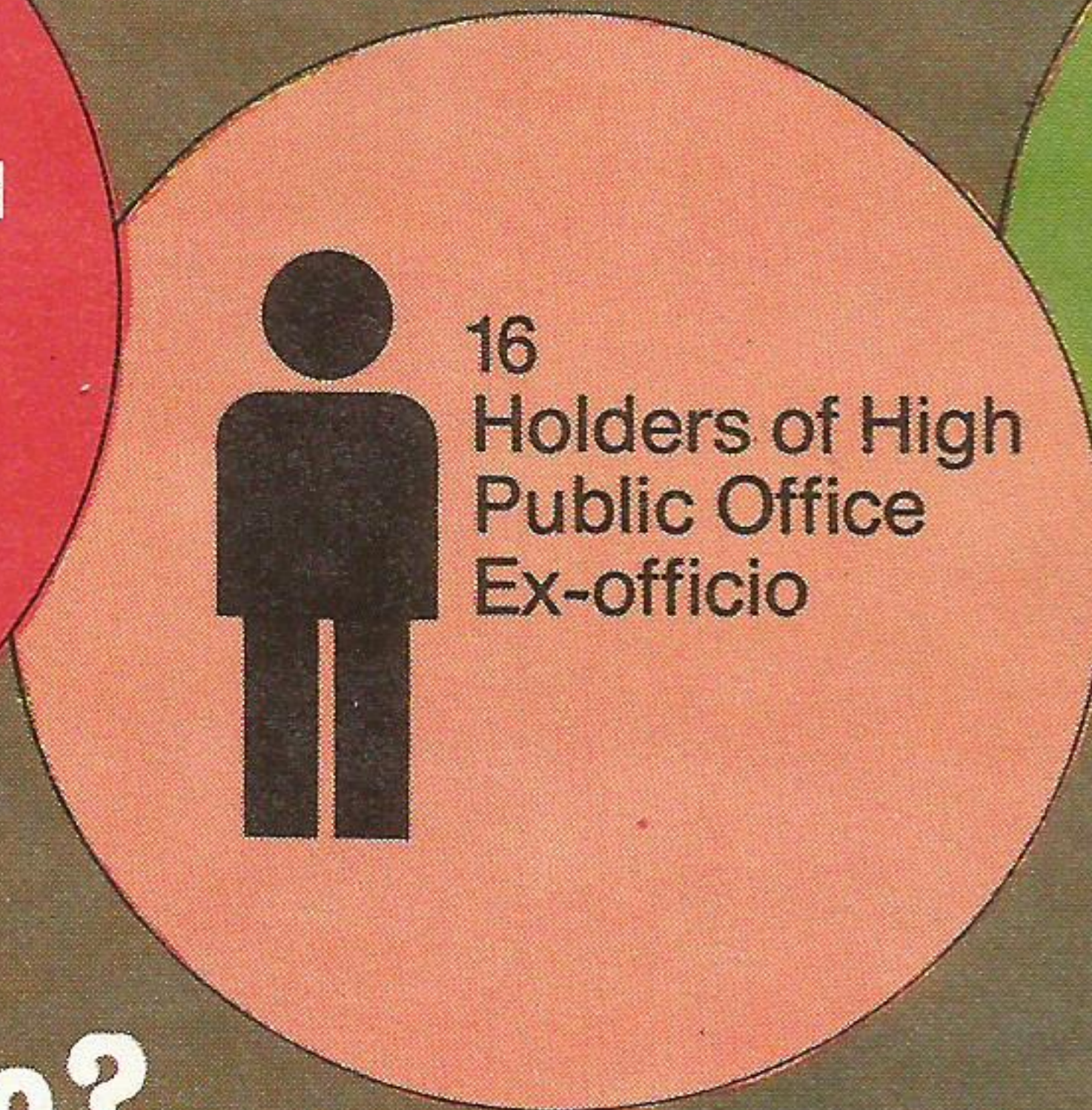

The Church Commissioners' Year

1978-79
A brief report
to church members
in the parishes



Who are the Commissioners?



What do they do?

Their aim is to manage, to the best advantage of the clergy of today and tomorrow, historic assets of the Church, valued at the end of the year at nearly £1000 million.

Out of the income from these assets they provide:

over 60% of the cost of paying and housing 11,700 active clergy and

100% of the cost of providing the pensions of 8,600 retired clergy and clergy widows.

As the Central Stipends Authority they recommend, after close consultation with dioceses, appropriate levels of pay for the clergy.

They are responsible for aspects of pastoral administration, mainly in carrying through diocesan proposals for parish reorganisation.

What they cannot do

Spend their capital as income

Contribute towards:

Clergy training

The maintenance and running of churches, church halls and churchyards

Education

Other charitable causes at home and overseas

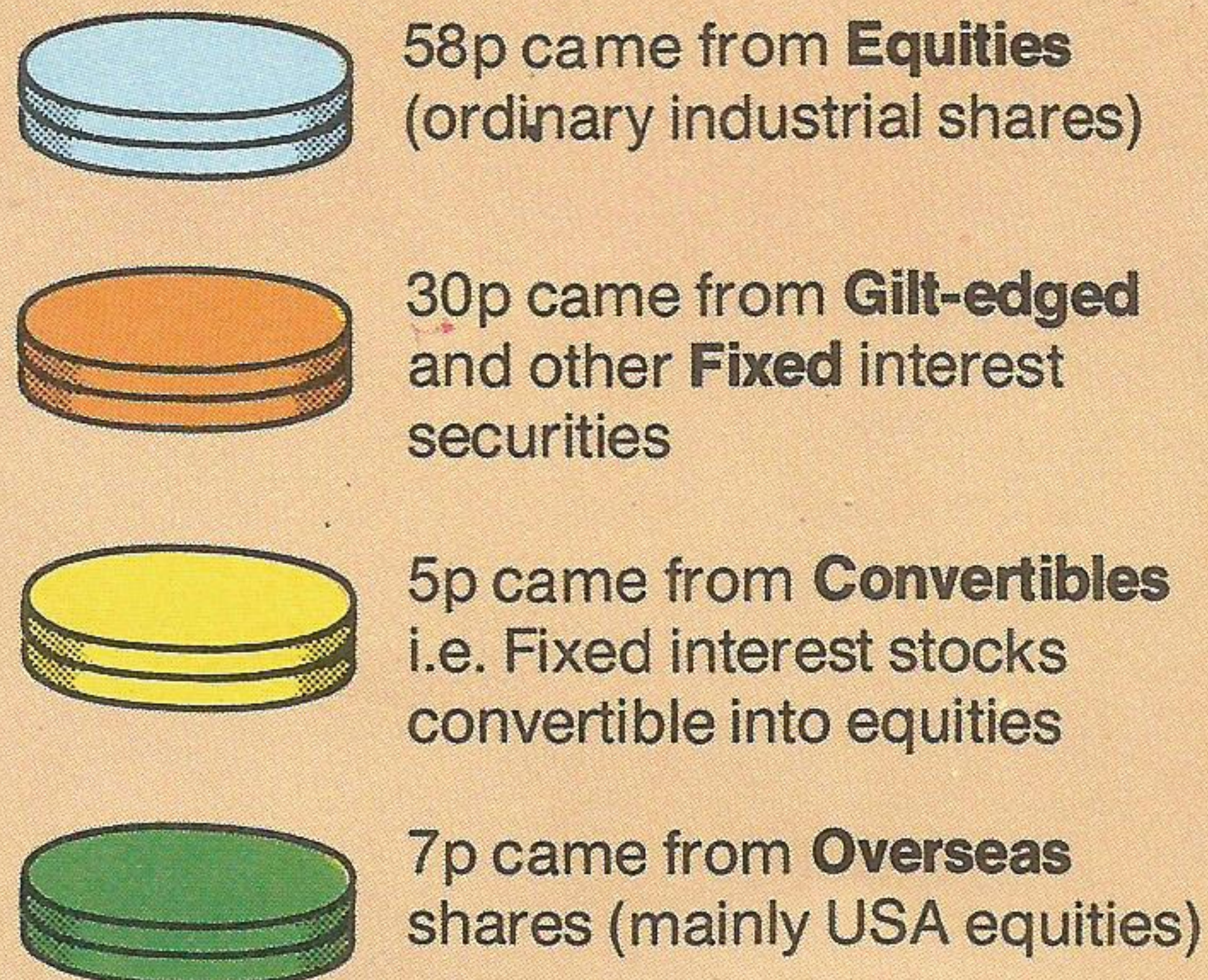
Remember only about 40% of the Church's income comes from the Commissioners

Income from Investments 1978-79

Stock Exchange

Income up 11% to £20 million

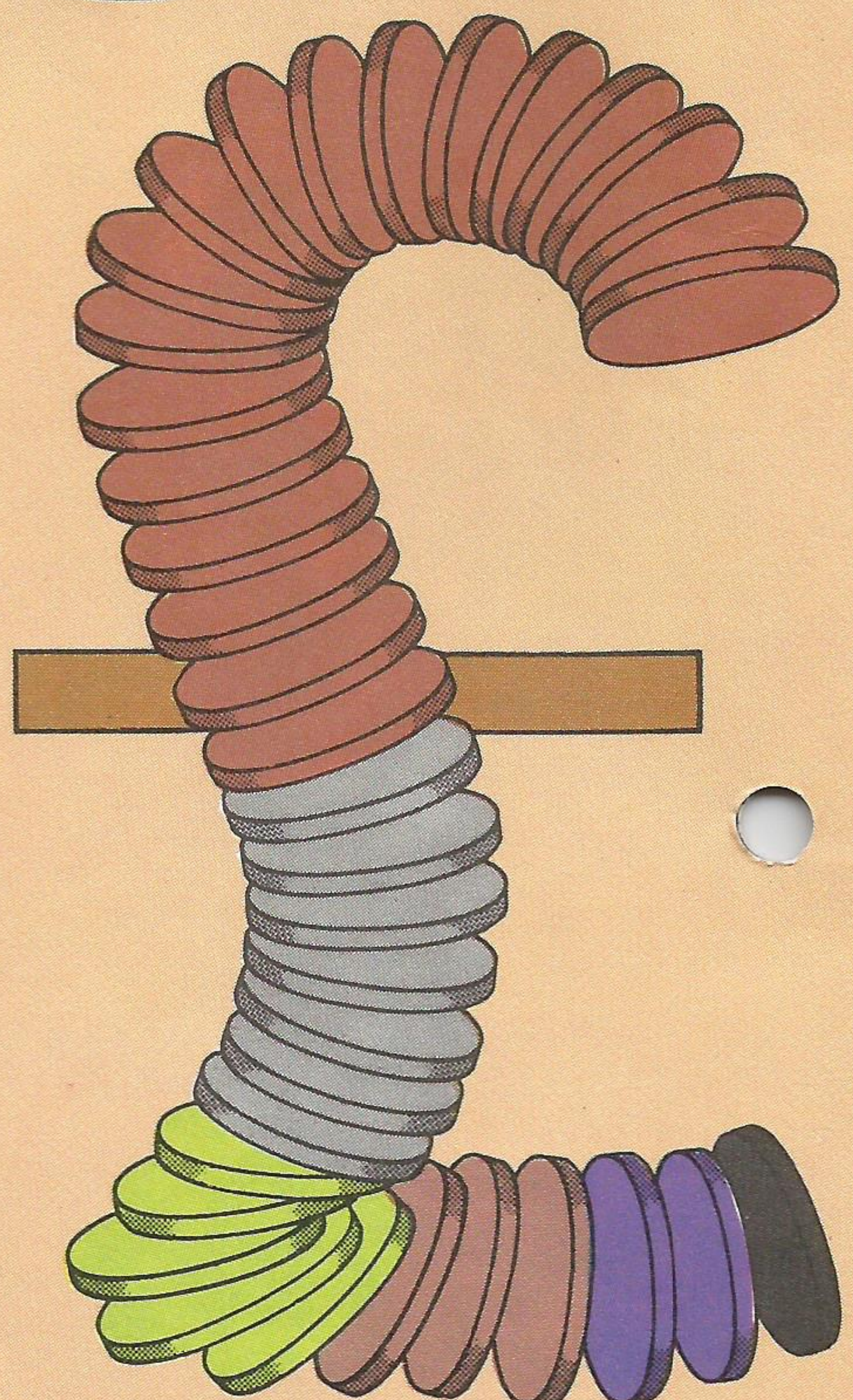
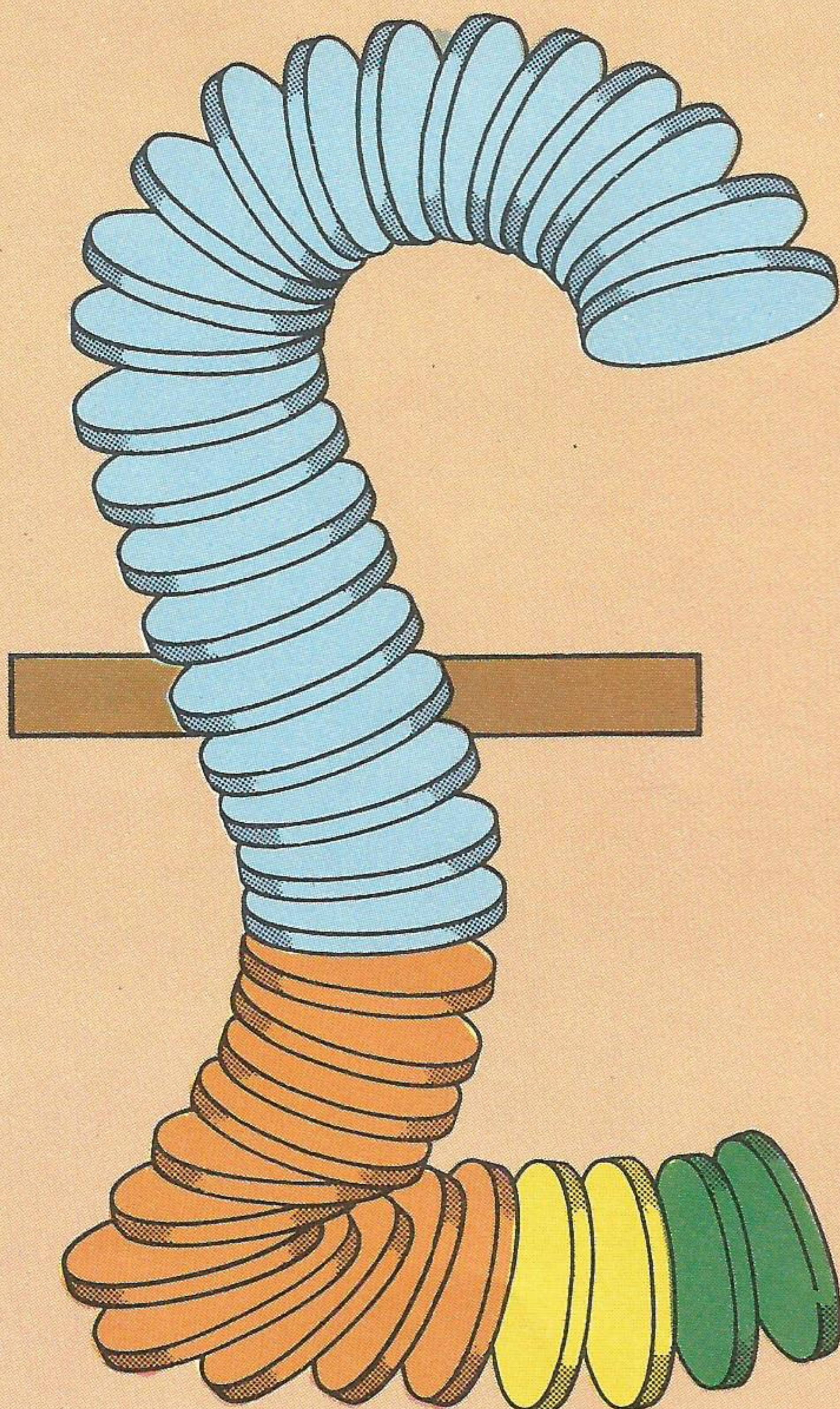
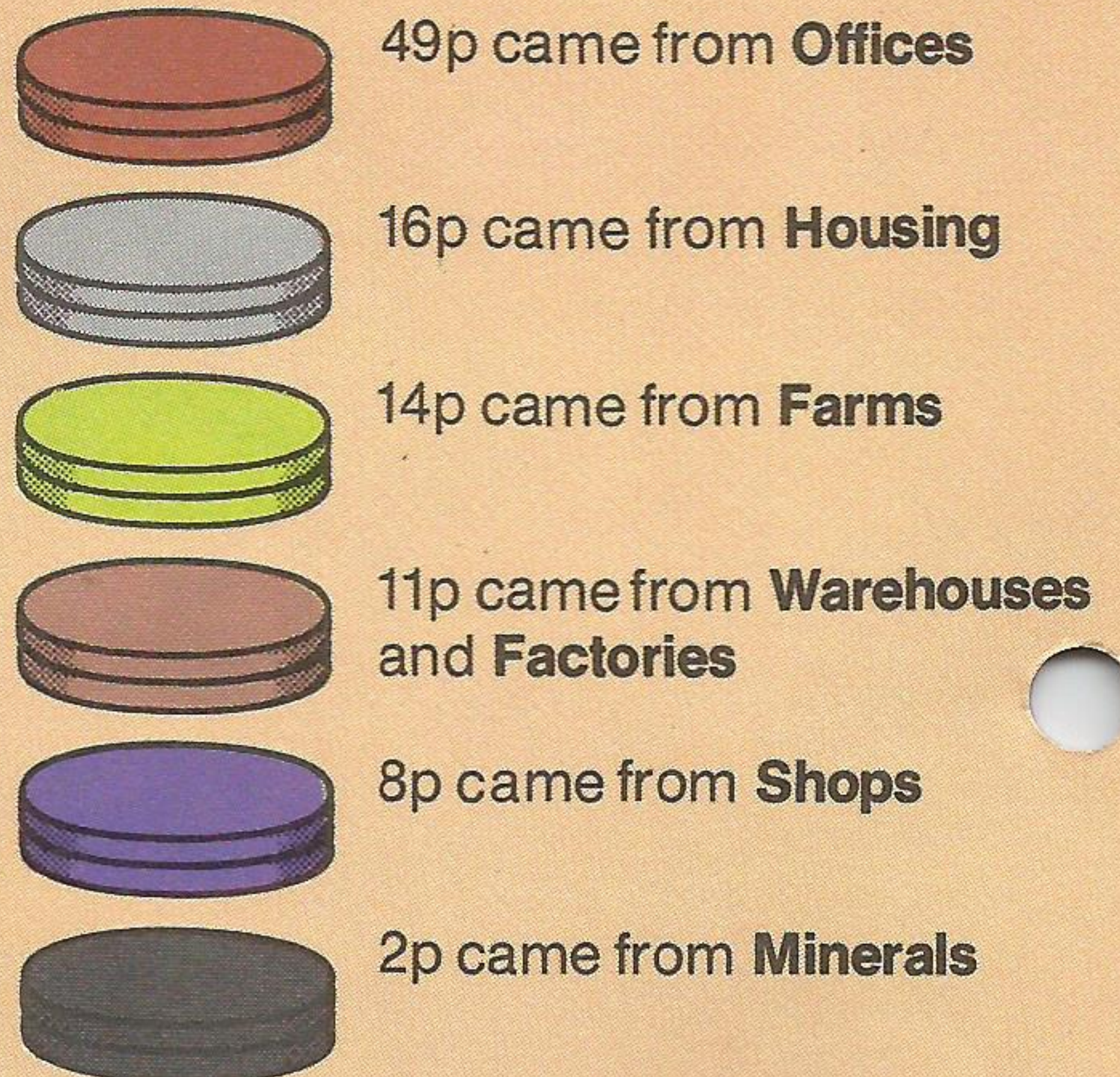
For every £1 of Stock Exchange Income



Property

Income up 19% to £22 million

For every £1 of Property Income



Mortgages & Loans Interest unchanged at £1½ million.

Short-term Loans Interest on money temporarily invested up 50% to £2¼ million.

Expenditure 1978-79

Stipends for 11,700 clergy

Nearly all clergy now receive a monthly pay cheque from the Commissioners though fees and Easter offerings are still received direct. But there is a close partnership between the Commissioners, dioceses and individual church members over clergy pay.

For example of the £36 million paid out by the Commissioners, while £26½ million came from income on the Commissioners' own assets, the remaining £9½ million mainly came from dioceses and parishes from lay giving.

As Central Stipends Authority the Commissioners, after close consultation with dioceses, recommended the following stipend levels from 1st April 1979:

Rectors and Vicars

National Minimum £3,300

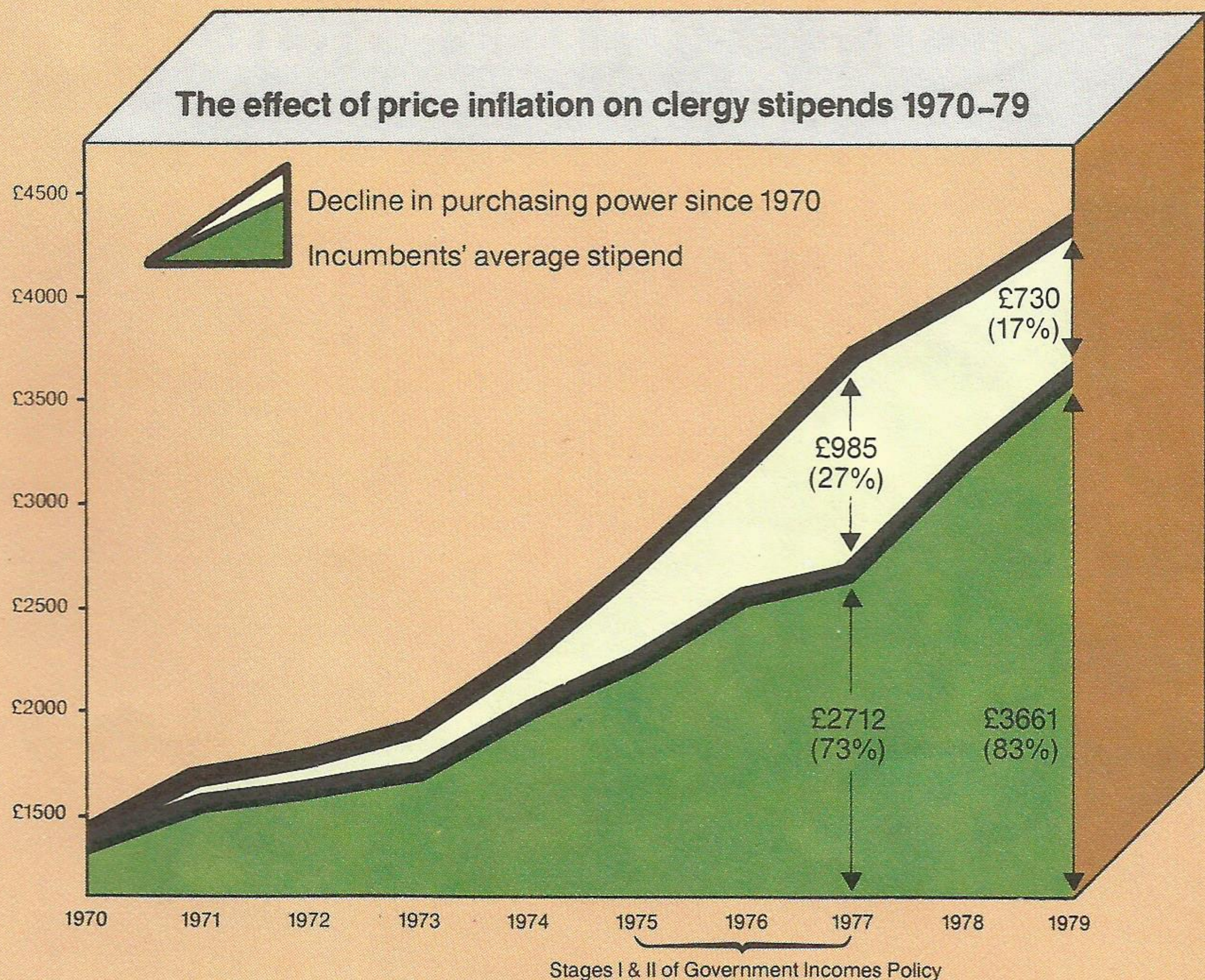
(average £3,661)

Curates

National Scale £2,400 – £3,000

(average £2,877)

But even with the real increases that these levels represent clergy stipends still need to catch up lost ground as the graph shows:



Pensions for 4700 retired clergy and 3900 clergy widows

£9 million or 16% of the Commissioners' total income went on pensions.

The Commissioners foot very nearly the whole bill and their expenditure rose by 12% or £1 million over last year.

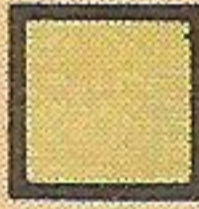
Since 1st April 1979 the full-service pension has been £1,650 per annum (£825 per annum for widows) and the lump sum payable on retirement after full service £2,500.


The Commissioners also increased to £5 million the amount lent to the Pensions Board to help retired clergy with their housing.


Clergy housing

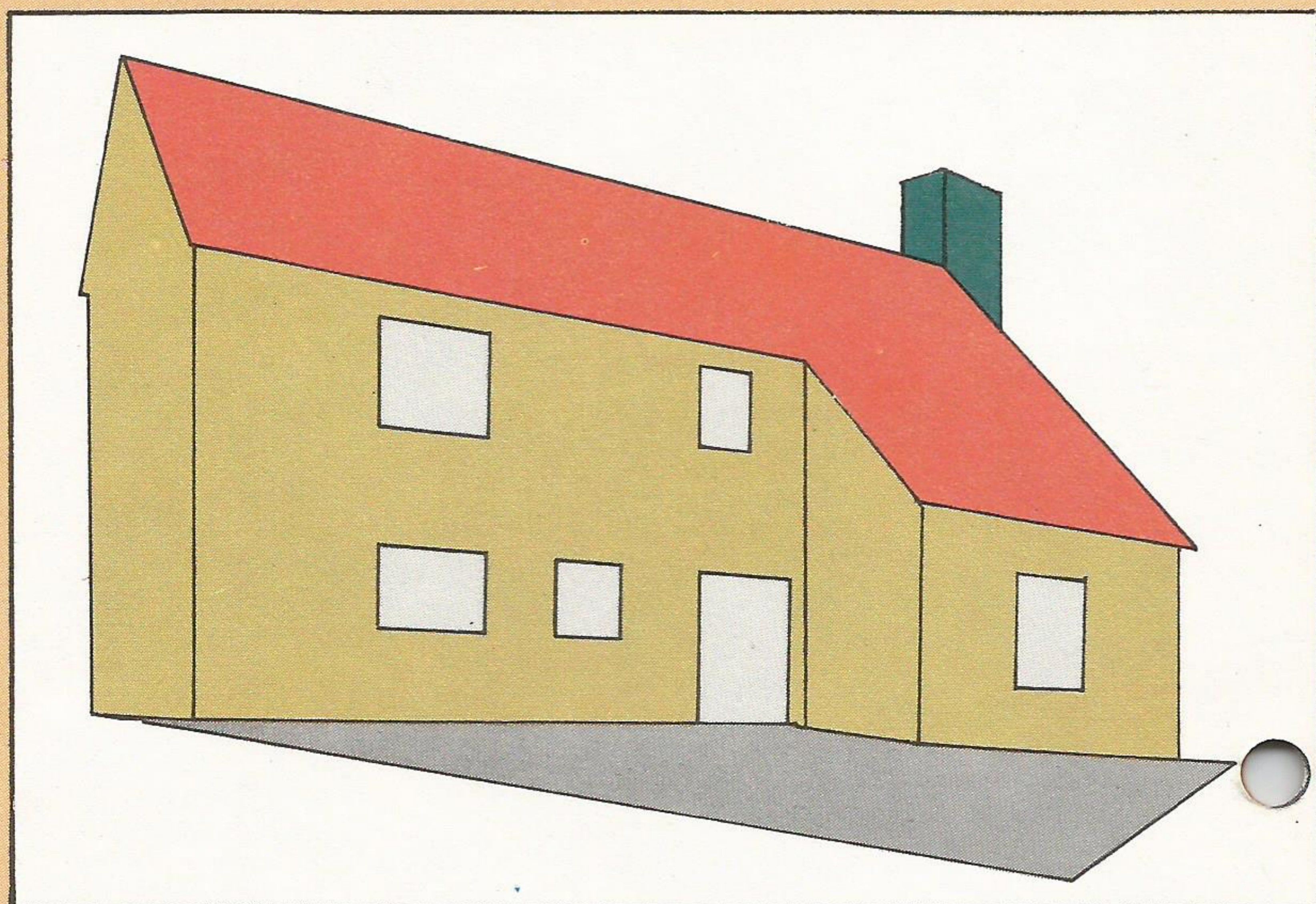
£6 million or 11% of the Commissioners' total income was made available to assist dioceses in providing and maintaining suitable clergy housing.

For every £1 spent:

 **52p**
was for repairs,
rates and other
outgoings

 **43p**
was for purchase,
building and
improvements

 **5p**
was for
decorations



During the year

302 parsonages were sold at an average price of £34,500

73 new parsonages were purchased at an average price of £33,500

and 79 new parsonages were being built at an average cost of £40,500

A substantial part of the sale proceeds of parsonages was applied towards stipends and wider church purposes.

Pastoral Administration 1978-79

The Commissioners operate the administrative machinery for implementing diocesan proposals for the reorganisation of pastoral care to meet present day needs and resources and also for settling the future of redundant churches.

The work that is going on has to be seen in the context of some 17,000 consecrated churches, 14,000 parishes and 11,000 benefices or livings.

Pastoral Reorganisation

341 schemes or orders completed

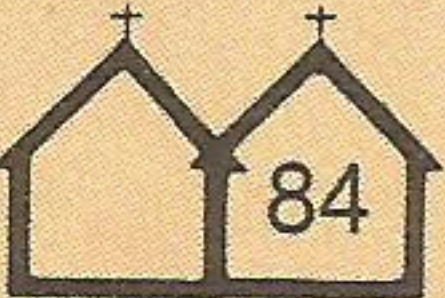
including **58** for declaring churches redundant


24 for establishing new team ministries

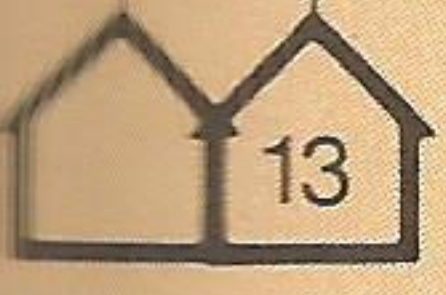
8 for establishing new group ministries


and **182** for uniting or otherwise rearranging benefices and parishes

Redundant churches

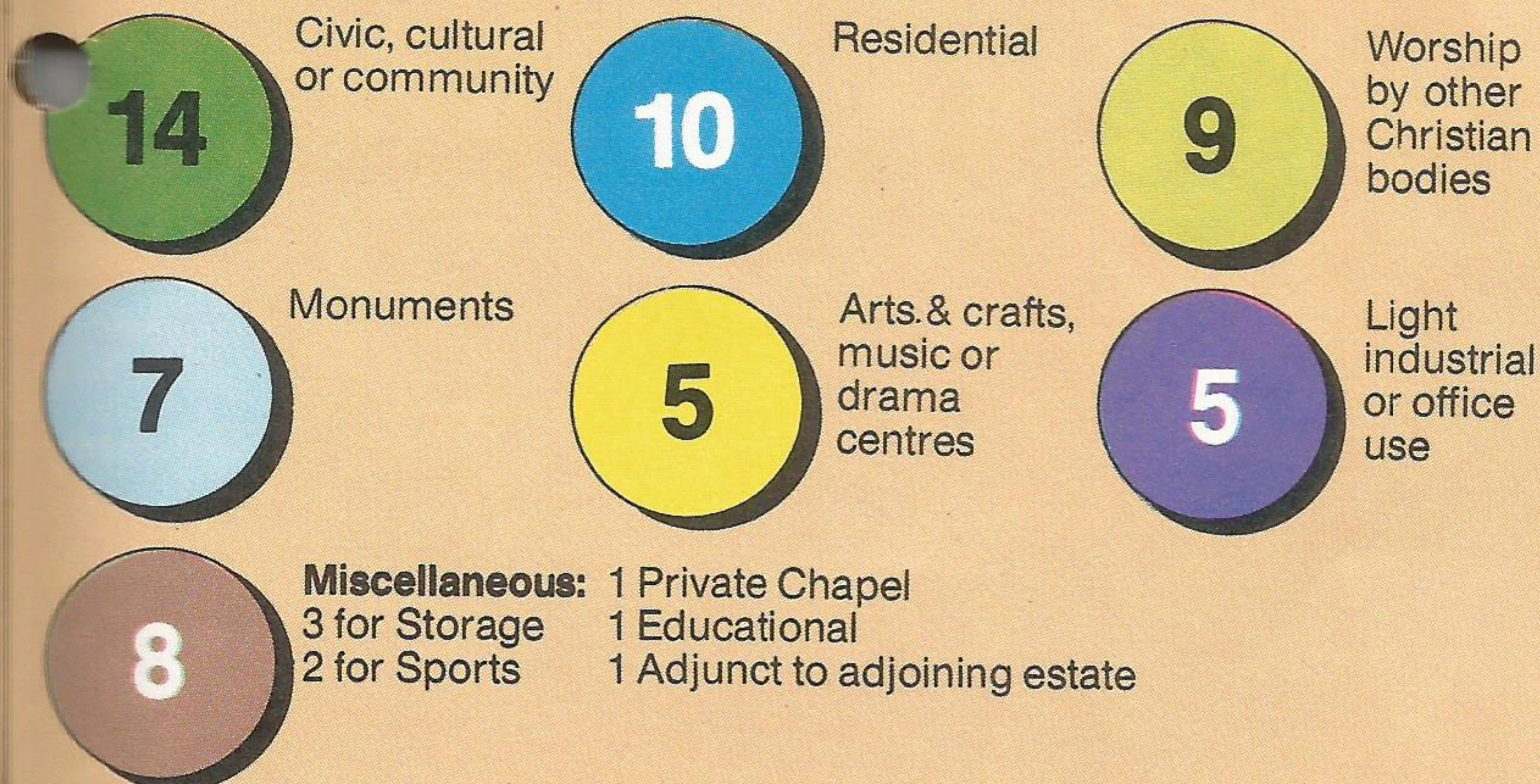
The future of  **84** redundant churches settled of which

 **58** were found new uses (see below)

 **13** were to be preserved by the Redundant Churches Fund

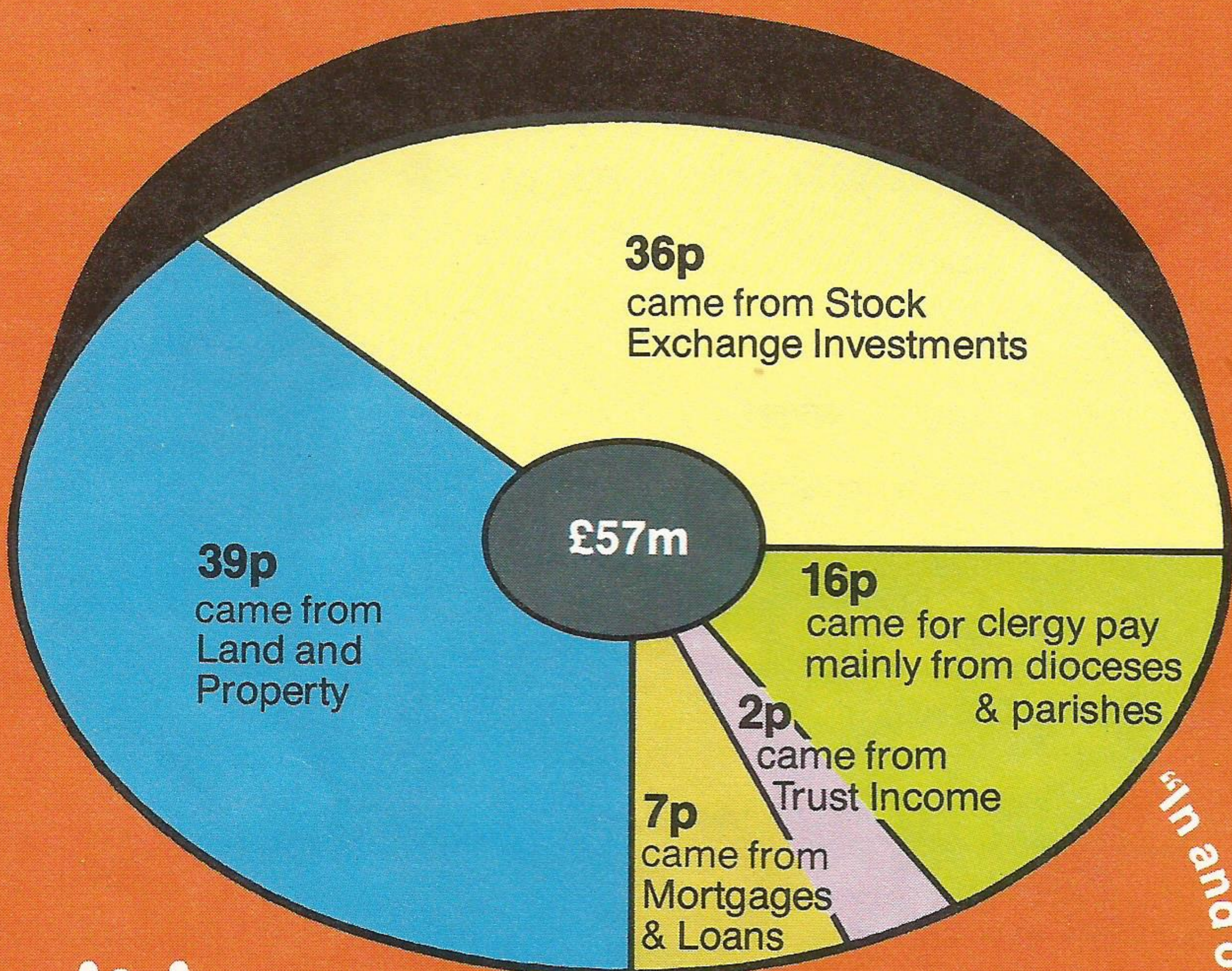
and  **13** demolished

Alternative uses 1978-79

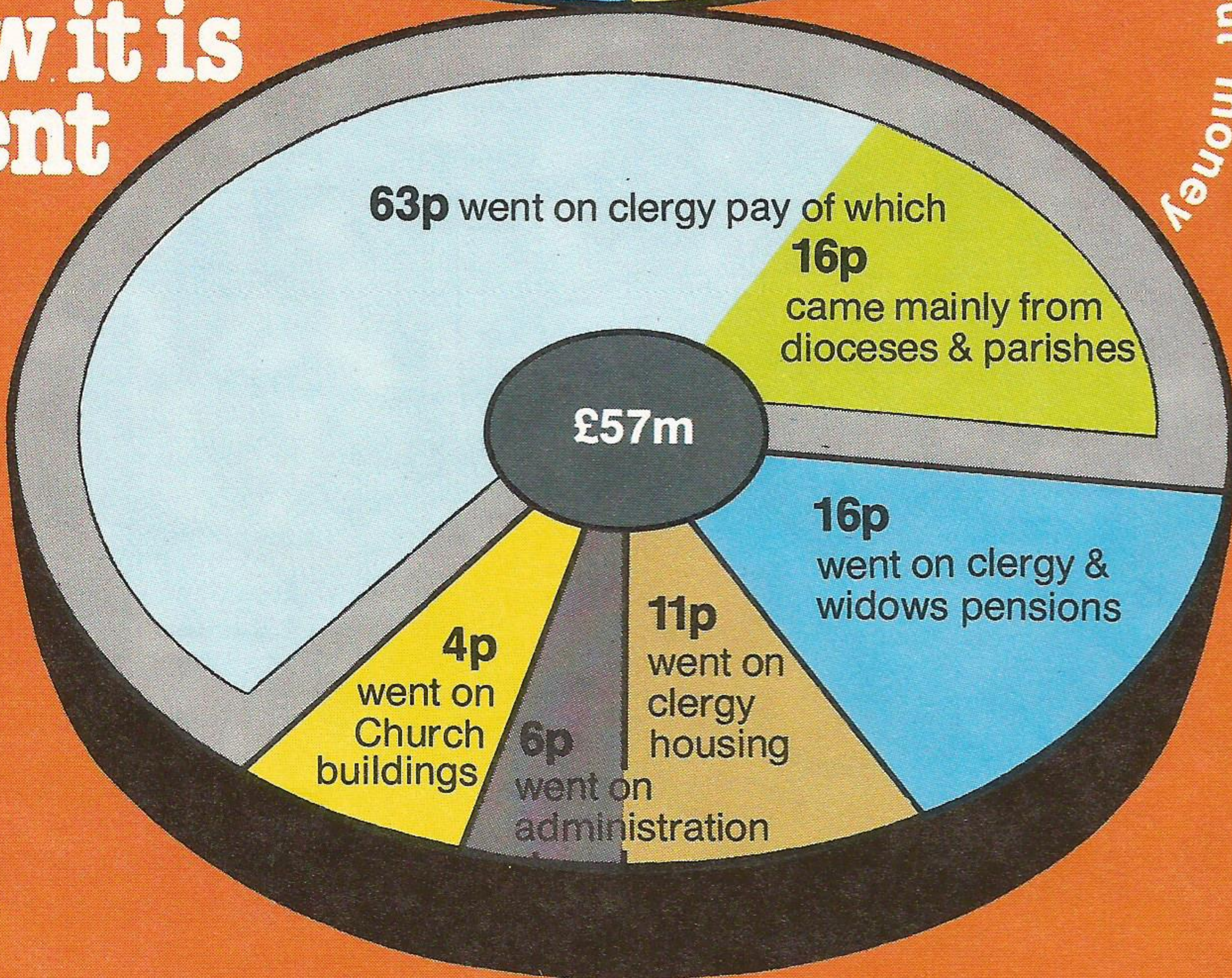


Where their money comes from

For every £1 of income in 1978-79



How it is spent



For every £1 spent in 1978-79

What then were the main points of the year?

Income from assets

up 15% to £46 million

Income from all sources £57 million

Clergy stipend levels

Rectors and vicars

– average up 16% from £3143 (1978) to £3661 (1979)

Curates

– average up 19% from £2424 (1978) to £2877 (1979)

Clergy pensions

Full service pension

– up 14% from £1450 (1978) to £1650 (1979)

So in a year when inflation fell to 8½% some real progress was made in catching up. But much remains to be done.

Further copies of this brief Report may be obtained from:

The Secretary

Church Commissioners

1 Millbank

London SW1P 3JZ (Tel: (01) 222 7010; Ext 323 or 306)

The Commissioners' full Annual Report & Accounts is also available on application.

The Press and Information Officer at No 1 Millbank is happy to provide speakers on the Commissioners' work to address Deanery and Diocesan Synods.