

ANNUAL BRIEFING FOR PARISHES

Financial year 2011



The Church of England at work in Essex and East London

We are all in this together: thank you for all you do

The active participation of our churches in every community makes the Diocese of Chelmsford a missionary presence that helps to sustain the life of Essex and East London.

Completing his first year in office the new Bishop of Chelmsford, Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, introduced Transforming Presence – Strategic Priorities for the Diocese of Chelmsford at Diocesan Synod, the regional 'parliament' of the Church of England, in November 2011. The strategic principles of Transforming Presence won enthusiastic support. See A blueprint for change on page 3.

Synod also warmly welcomed and supported Transforming Leadership. This report is to be implemented in 2012/13 and includes a refocusing of the roles of advisers to support parishes and three additional archdeacons working with Rural/Area Deans.

Among several significant leadership changes John Wraw, Archdeacon of Wilts, was announced as the new Bishop of Bradwell following the retirement of Rt Revd Dr Laurie Green after 18 years' service. John Ball was appointed Chief Executive and Diocesan Secretary in succession to Steven Webb.

The money to pay for God's mission comes from generous week-by-week giving. Over the past decade the payment of Parish Share has generally improved while the Diocese has contained its costs (see Financing God's mission on page 2 for a summary of the 2011 accounts). A substantial legacy received in 2011 will fund improvement work at the Diocesan House of Retreat in Pleshey and help to improve the effectiveness of the Diocese.

Around 4,860 children and adults were welcomed into the Christian faith through baptism, and a further 891 people were confirmed, 56% of whom were aged 20 and over.

With retirements the number of stipendiary clergy available to the Diocese will continue to reduce. However, dedicated men and women both lay and ordained are being resourced to be missionary leaders in many different ways.

Some 21 men and women were ordained as deacons and 24 as priests in 2011. Learning and development opportunities were provided to lay and ordained leaders of church communities including children's and young people's groups.

The Diocesan Board of Education agreed to five church schools becoming academies and set up an umbrella trust for new academies. The George Carey Primary School opened in Barking Riverside. Becket Keys, a new CofE secondary school for Brentwood, was given approval to open in September 2012.

The ordination of women bishops was welcomed by Synod. Common tenure rights and responsibilities for clergy were introduced. New policies and strategies were approved on clergy housing, investments, and the environment (see Green action plan takes root on page 4). Extensive updating of records resulted in the Diocese being awarded grade A status by the UK Border Agency. Progress was made towards a new child protection policy. The registry (legal department) moved from Chelmsford to the London offices of Winckworth Sherwood solicitors in order to provide more continuous cover.

Bishop Stephen published *Come and See*, a

fresh approach to daily Bible-reading. Many people followed his Lent course, *A Rich Inheritance*. The Bishop's Lent Appeal for Kenya was generously supported and raised more than £36,000 (see *Rewing up for the Bishop's Lent Appeal* on page 3). International partnerships were strengthened with exchange visits to Kenya and Sweden.

The Diocese led the national celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible taking an innovative approach (see *Diocese raises a glass to year of the Bible* on page 2). Chelmsford was a top diocese for participation in *Back to Church Sunday* with 221 parishes taking part. The national weddings project continued to be supported by the Diocese, and teams took part in lively wedding shows in Docklands, Brentwood and Chelmsford.

The Diocese hosted a major conference, *The Big Questions: Faith in Public Life*, in partnership with the East of England Faiths Council. Community leaders joined together for an unemployment vigil in Chelmsford Cathedral. Pastoral care was provided to traveller families at Dale Farm in Basildon. Church members in east London cared for residents affected by rioting. Our Mission Opportunity Fund and the London Over the Border Council awarded grants of more than £860,000 to church projects. Preparations were made for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games coming to the Diocese (see *Olympic Village gets go-ahead* below).

Continued on page 2

Olympic village gets go-ahead

The main site for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games is at Stratford within the Diocese. A project based in Woodford and supported by the Mission Opportunity Fund of the Diocese will showcase the welcome and hospitality offered by local churches during the Games. Events will include fun days, children's holiday clubs, family cafés and international food evenings. Every house in the area will receive a calendar of events.



Jacqui Kean, a youth worker at All Saints', Woodford Wells worked with a group of local churches to get the Olympic Village project off the ground.

Annual briefing for parishes

From page 1

The communication services of the Diocese continued to be enhanced with the launch of new websites, www.stephencottrell.org, www.runtherace.biz and www.transformingpresence.org.uk, complemented by creative videos and radio adverts.

This brief overview for the parishes of Chelmsford Diocese presents snapshots from 2011. You can read more about the outstanding achievements of the parishes of the Diocese in the detailed Annual Reports to Diocesan Synod www.chelmsford.anglican.org/synodreport2011

That is where you will find the financial statements of the Diocese for 1 January to 31 December 2011. In common with those reports this briefing has had to be published after the annual accounts were approved in May 2012.

Diocese raises a glass to year of the Bible

Parishioners popped down to their local to take in a story or two from the Bible as they sipped a pint. The 'Beer and Bible' initiative was one of the ways Chelmsford Diocese celebrated the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible.

The Diocese had a special beer mat printed with the words, Jesus said, 'let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink'. Other events included public readings of the Bible from cover to cover.



Mystery worshippers welcomed in



Chelmsford Diocese is always looking to support parishes in the vital ministry of welcoming. So we offer a visit by one of our 'Mystery Worshippers'.

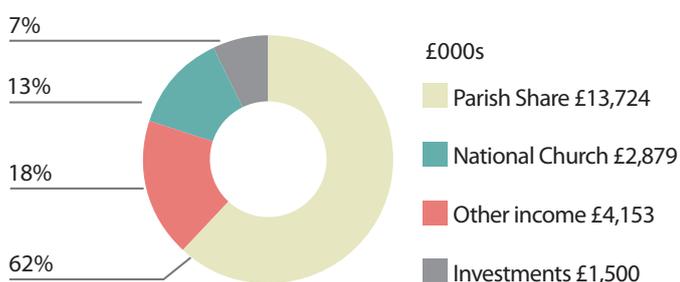
A Mystery Worshipper is simply someone who attends a Sunday service unannounced, and then fills out a comprehensive feedback form covering areas such as the welcome, atmosphere, sermon, refreshments and music.

There is an option of a second visit taking place 6 to 12 months later. A Mystery Worshipper comes at the invitation of the vicar and the report is sent back to the vicar.

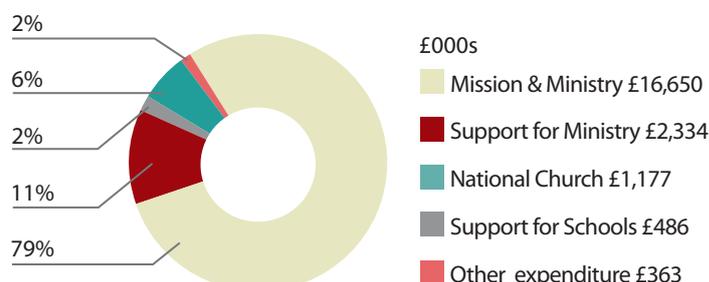
Revd Charlie Kosla unmasked

Financing God's mission

Income 2011 £22,256,000



Expenditure 2011 £21,010,000



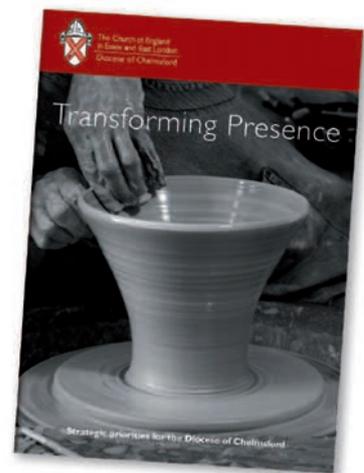
A blueprint for change

Bishop Stephen told the November 2011 Synod that he wanted church members to reach a stage when it is **as easy for them to talk about Jesus as it is to talk about football or Eastenders**.

Synod supported the four strategic priorities to guide the Church over the next 10-15 years set out in Transforming Presence – Strategic priorities for the Diocese of Chelmsford:

- Living a distinctive Christian life in the world.
- Evangelising effectively.
- Holding ourselves mutually accountable over the basics of Christian ministry.
- Developing a new vision for ministry for a Church serving in a missionary context.

Transforming Presence is available at www.transformingpresence.org.uk.



Ever wanted to ask a bishop a question...?

In the run up to Back to Church Sunday Bishop Stephen invited shoppers to join him for a relaxing natter outside M&S at Lakeside regional shopping centre.

Shoppers who fancied a conversation and a sit down on a comfy sofa, took the weight off their feet and enjoyed a chat. They talked about God, about church, about anything and everything.



Revving up for the Bishop's Lent Appeal



Father Alex Gowing-Cumber (far left) and Ven Elwin Cockett (centre) get together with local bikers in aid of Kenyan clergy.

Local bikers joined in a ride-out to Epping Forest on Easter Monday 2011 to raise funds for clergy in Kenya. Some Kenyan vicars travel tens of miles across non-tarmac roads on unreliable 30-year-old bikes or

hitch a lift on passing lorries to teach in schools and reach the poorest and most needy people in the most isolated communities. The ride-out helped to get them new Suzuki 125cc bikes.

St Luke's primary goes to top of the class



A pupil shows Bishop Stephen her work when he visited St Luke's primary school

St Luke's CofE School in Canning Town was named as the top London primary school in the National Church School Awards.

Understanding global citizenship and community cohesion is vital to the school. The school's curriculum ensures that pupils understand what these concepts mean in practice. They work with international partner schools and on valuable projects to improve the local area.

Green action plan takes root

An action document, *It is possible...to live differently* published by the Diocesan Environment Group, challenges the whole Diocese to take practical actions in order to reduce its carbon footprint, use influence to bring about policy change, and be good stewards of God's world. An electronic version of the document can be downloaded from www.chelmsford.anglican.org/assets/files/It_is_possible.pdf

Winner of the 2011 Rural Community Council of Essex Best Kept Churchyard competition, St Mary's and St Christopher's church at Panfield. The judges were impressed with the planting of flowers and shrubs to attract butterflies and bees and that some areas are left wild for bugs and insects.



Café Hub celebrates first birthday



yummy menu at Café Hub

Café Hub at Christ Church in Southend-on-Sea celebrated a year of service. One of many local projects in the Diocese, it brings together a range of partnerships for the benefit of the community, offers children the opportunity to enjoy a snack and a drink, join in sensory play and craft activities, and make new friends. Café Hub also provides a venue for local counselling and advisory services.

Watch us on YouTube. You can find our channel at www.youtube.com/user/ChelmsfordDiocese

The Diocese of Chelmsford – Did you know?

- The second largest English church region in population terms with 2,862,000 people.
- Led by the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, supported by three Area Bishops (Barking, Bradwell and Colchester), four archdeacons (Harlow, West Ham, Southend and Colchester) and 25 rural or area deans.
- The Diocese is managed through a registered company and charity, the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance (CDBF).
- The Chief Executive, John Ball, works with the Bishop of Chelmsford in developing and implementing his strategy and leads the CDBF.
- 63 staff based in Chelmsford, Colchester, Walthamstow and Horndon-on-the-Hill.
- 599 churches, 483 clergy, 283 lay readers, 140 church schools.
- More than 42,000 regular weekly attendees. Over 46,000 people on church electoral rolls. Nearly 30,000 children and young people in church schools. An estimated 100,000 young people share in assemblies, chaplaincy, clubs and youth work.
- A region of 1,531 square miles covering County of Essex, the unitary authorities of Southend and Thurrock and the east London boroughs of Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest;
- the main site for the London 2012 Olympic Games is in the diocese at Stratford.
- A dynamic region served by good road, rail and air connections with a mix of the manufacturing and service sectors, ports and agriculture.
- A diverse geographical landscape from the east coast to the Thames, including countryside, towns, suburbs and regeneration areas.
- A diverse social landscape, ranging from some of the most deprived places in the country to some of the most affluent.

The Annual Briefing for Parishes is published by the Communications Unit, Chelmsford Diocese, 53 New Street, Chelmsford CM1 1AT
www.chelmsford.anglican.org e internalcomms@chelmsford.anglican.org t 01245 294424