Together for mission

We are telling the good news of Christ afresh to each generation. The lives of 100,000 young people are touched through church schools and other groups.

The average weekly church attendance of adults, young people and children is 39,500 in our diocese. An estimated further 6,225 adults and children attended a ‘fresh expression of church’. Fresh expressions are new forms of church such as Messy Church (an all-age family event), Café and Pub church, Network church or church specifically for youth or elderly people.

In preparation for our centenary year in 2014 a website www.chelmsfordcentenary.org was launched and Bishop Stephen led 19 training evenings attended by nearly 5,000 people on evangelising effectively through parish mission weekends.

Bishop Stephen co-authored a new nurture course called Pilgrim.

Three new archdeaconries were created in order to bring effective leadership closer to the ground and enable all our churches to grow without incurring additional costs or taking posts away from parishes.

Seven further pastoral re-organisations (or changes to church administration and geography) were completed.

The diocese successfully applied to be an academy sponsor and two multi-academy trusts, Sower and Vine, were set up for groups of schools moving to academy status. Work began on turning a vision for Sparrows, a chain of affordable pre-schools with a Christian ethos, into reality. New buildings at St John’s CofE Secondary School at Epping were completed.

We contributed to the development of national policy in education and our Diocesan Synod supported plans for the full integration of education and mission in the diocese. Synod received reports about significant work in progress in higher and further education chaplaincy.

Nationally General Synod took steps towards the ordination of women bishops while safeguarding the position of colleagues with a conscientious objection. Annette Cooper, the Archdeacon of Colchester, was elected as one of eight senior women clergy on the House of Bishops until such time as there are at least six female bishops.

The Bishop of Colchester, Christopher Morgan retired and the retirement of the Bishop of Barking, David Hawkins was announced. We started the process of recruiting their successors, and the future of episcopal ministry was considered by Diocesan Synod.

The Dean of Chelmsford, Peter Judd retired and the appointment of his successor, Nicholas Henshall was announced.

Deaneries shared their responses to Transforming Presence, the strategic priorities for the diocese, at our March Synod and they reported progress with re-imagining ministry.
The diocese shared best practice with a group of dioceses in an inter-diocesan learning community.

Some **27 people were ordained as deacons and 13 as priests**. 102 people graduated from our Course in Christian Studies and 160 started the course.

Plans were laid for strengthening **Continuous Ministerial Development**. The new role of **Licensed Lay Minister** was created and proposals were implemented to expand lay ministerial training. An internship scheme for young vocations was approved.

Reciprocal exchanges continued with our **Swedish and Kenyan linked dioceses** to the mutual enrichment of leadership programmes.

Philip Need succeeded Richard More as **Diocesan Director of Ordinands**, and the DDO’s office was re-located to be part of the Mission & Ministry team.

A new **child protection policy** was launched supported by an e-learning package. Training was delivered on a new anti-bullying and harassment policy.

A process for **authorising youth workers** and good practice guidelines for the employment of youth workers were approved.

Turning to our **financial performance**, 2013 saw a reduction in the stipendiary clergy vacancy rate, better rental incomes, and savings from the transition to the new archdeaconries. However, there was an overall deficit of £323,000 due to share shortfall.

While there was a shortfall in **parish share** receipts, £368 share was received per ‘member’ compared to the national average of £323. The vast majority of parishes continued to be faithful partners in mission, meeting the parish share request year after year. Their efforts were celebrated in a special service at the cathedral.

A consultation was held on a diocesan budget for 2014. A deficit budget was approved for 2014 with no reduction in stipendiary numbers in post.

Our **Mission Opportunity Fund** distributed £435,000 to nine projects.

**Events for civic leaders**, school heads and governors, charity and community figures were hosted by John Wraw, Bishop of Bradwell. The Bishop led a community project called Lent Invest.

Bishop David launches ‘Faces of Faith’ children’s learning videos

Bishop John awards Real Easter Eggs to poetry competition winners at the Cathedral Primary School

The following figures had not been audited at the time of going to print.

**Income 2013 £21,647,000**

- Parish Share £13,840
- National Church £3,013
- Other income £3,243
- Investments £1,551

**Expenditure 2013 £22,227,000**

- Mission & Ministry £17,306
- Support for Ministry £2,593
- Support for Schools £574
- Other expenditure £612

**Diocese of Chelmsford annual briefing for parishes: financial year 2013**
Solar panels were installed on 175 parsonages. This will generate an income stream, reduce clergy fuel bills and contribute to environmental goals.

In order to bring superfast broadband to rural communities via church towers the diocese agreed a partnership agreement with County Broadband, the rural broadband supplier. Following a trial at Coggeshall the first installation will be at Little Horkesley.

As part of the upgrading of our Retreat House at Pleshey bedrooms were refurbished and new en-suite bathrooms were installed.

A new parsonage was built at Bocking. Planning permission for the demolition of a church hall and the provision of new housing at Brightlingsea was granted. Consultations were held about the future of Birch church building which has been closed for worship for a quarter of a century.

Our Synod looked at national case studies illustrating best practice in the use of church buildings. Design awards were presented by our Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches. A gutter clearance scheme was launched which will make it easier for churches to get their gutters cleared every year and prevent damage from water ingress.

Moves

The Bishop of Colchester, Christopher Morgan retired.

The vicar of Great Warley, Chris Goldsmith was appointed Bishop of St German’s in the Diocese of Truro.

The Dean of Chelmsford, Peter Judd retired and the appointment of Nicholas Henschall was announced.

Philip Need succeeded Richard More as Diocesan Director of Ordinands.

A new Diocesan Director of Education, Tim Elbourne was appointed in succession to Rob Fox.

New Archdeacons, Robin King (Stansted), Mina Smallman (Southend) and John Perumbalath (Barking) were installed.

Katharine King, Helen Willis and Fiona Greaves were appointed as their respective Secretaries. Helen continued in post as secretary to David Lowman, whose title was re-named Archdeacon of Chelmsford. Fiona previously supported our child protection team.

The appointment of Aiden Hargreaves-Smith as our Registrar was confirmed in succession to Buzz Hood.

Geoff Read was appointed as the new Continuous Ministerial Development Adviser for the Colchester Area after Tim Bull took up the post of Director of Ministry and Ministry Development Officer in St Albans Diocese. Steven Saxby was elected to General Synod in his place. James Harding was appointed as the Chelmsford-based tutor for St Mellitus College.

Contact details of diocesan staff can be found at: www.chelmsford.anglican.org/about/staff

Clergy ‘comings and goings’ are reported in the Notice Board supplement of our newspaper, The Month.
About the Diocese of Chelmsford

Our passion is Jesus.
We are passionate about proclaiming and living out God’s love for all people.

Our aspiration is to be a transforming presence in every community, open and welcoming to everyone, and serving all people.

Our resources are faithful people, prayer and worship, visionary leadership and liberating gifts.

• The Diocese is led by Stephen Cottrell, the Bishop of Chelmsford, assisted by three Area Bishops (Barking, Bradwell and Colchester) and seven Archdeacons (Barking, Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow, Southend, Stansted and West Ham).
• Chelmsford Diocese is a Church region of more than 1,500 square miles that stretches from the East coast to the Thames and ranges from countryside to towns and suburbs.
• It comprises the county of Essex, the unitary authorities of Southend and Thurrock, and the east London boroughs of Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest.
• With a population of nearly 3 million people Chelmsford is the second largest diocese in England.
• About 4,800 children and adults a year are welcomed into the Christian faith through baptism, and about 900 are confirmed.
• About six in ten people in Essex and East London say they are Christian.

Chelmsford Diocese is the Church of England in Essex and East London.

• The Diocese is the largest voluntary organisation in Essex and East London.
• An estimated 35,400 adults attended church at least once a month in 2013 based on 67 per cent of parish attendance forms received at the time of going to print. This is a reduction of about 2 per cent on 2012. However, Chelmsford Cathedral is excluded from these figures and an estimated 3,345 adults attended a fresh expression of church based on October 2013. This more than makes up for the reduction in the adult attendance.
• There are around 2,000 weddings in the Diocese and 6,100 funeral or cremation services a year.
• The Diocese comprises 460 parishes, 317 benefices, 598 churches and 360 stipendiary clergy.
• Nearly 30,000 children and young people attend 140 church schools.
• An estimated 100,000 young people share in assemblies, chaplaincy, clubs and youth work.

About the Diocese of Chelmsford

One person was baptised and eight others were confirmed at Brightlingsea by Bishop Christopher during the Easter vigil.