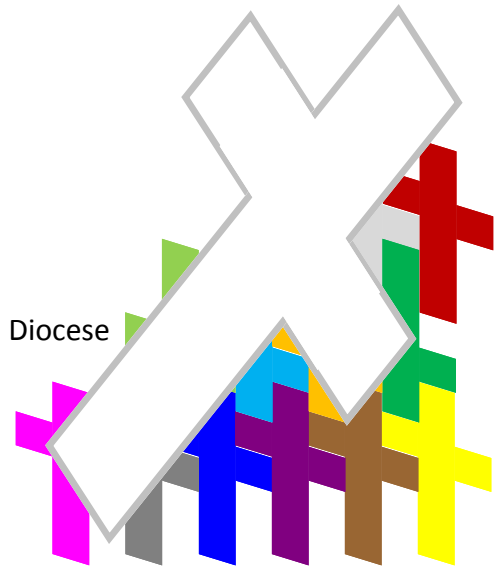


The Chelmsford Holding Cross

Information Sheet

What is the Chelmsford Holding Cross?

The Chelmsford Holding Cross has been created by the Chelmsford Diocese to help people live distinctively as Christians. The size of the cross means it can be kept in a pocket or bag, and held at any time. The cross serves to encourage prayer. The Bible words inscribed on it remind us about the heart of Christian living: to love the Lord your God, and to love your neighbour as yourself.



The Chelmsford Holding Crosses come from three different sources:

- hand made in our link Diocese in Kenya
- hand made from wood reclaimed from old pews previously used in Chelmsford Diocese
- hand made using fresh pine from a sustainable source, of the kind grown in our link Diocese in Sweden

A short video telling the story of the production of the Chelmsford Holding Cross can be viewed on the discipleship page of the Diocesan website.

How can I use the Chelmsford Holding Cross in my church?

The Chelmsford Holding Cross can be used by members of your church, as a constant reminder to pray and live a distinctively Christian life. A short course called 'Holding On' has been prepared, to accompany the crosses. This course runs over five sessions, and is designed to help people think about living distinctively as a Christian and about a simple Rule of Life. The course includes information about the holding crosses and some personal testimonies. For details about how to access this material, which is free, please look on the discipleship page of the Diocesan website.

The Chelmsford Holding Cross can also be used for a particular purpose, such as a gift at baptism, confirmation, marriage, or for school leavers. You could produce your own special insert card to include with each cross. This might include details about your church fellowship as well as other words of encouragement to suit the moment on which the gift is being made.

Members of your church could be encouraged to take two crosses, one to keep and one to give away as an evangelistic gift.

How do I order a stock of the Chelmsford Holding Cross?

Please use the official Chelmsford Holding Cross Order Form. A copy of this can be downloaded from the discipleship page of the Diocesan website, or please contact the Cathedral Office on 01245 294492. The crosses are available in boxes of 25 at a cost of £4 each cross (£100 per box), which covers the production costs.

Individual Chelmsford Holding Crosses are also available from the Diocesan Bookshop, the Pleshey Retreat House and the Cathedral Bookshop at £5 each, if you need fewer than 25. The intention is that the crosses will be used either as free gifts within the mission and ministry of the local church, or sold at no more than £5 each.

