

Making Connections...



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford



Evangelising effectively in Chelmsford Diocese



What is evangelism?

And how can we enable it to happen through the local church?

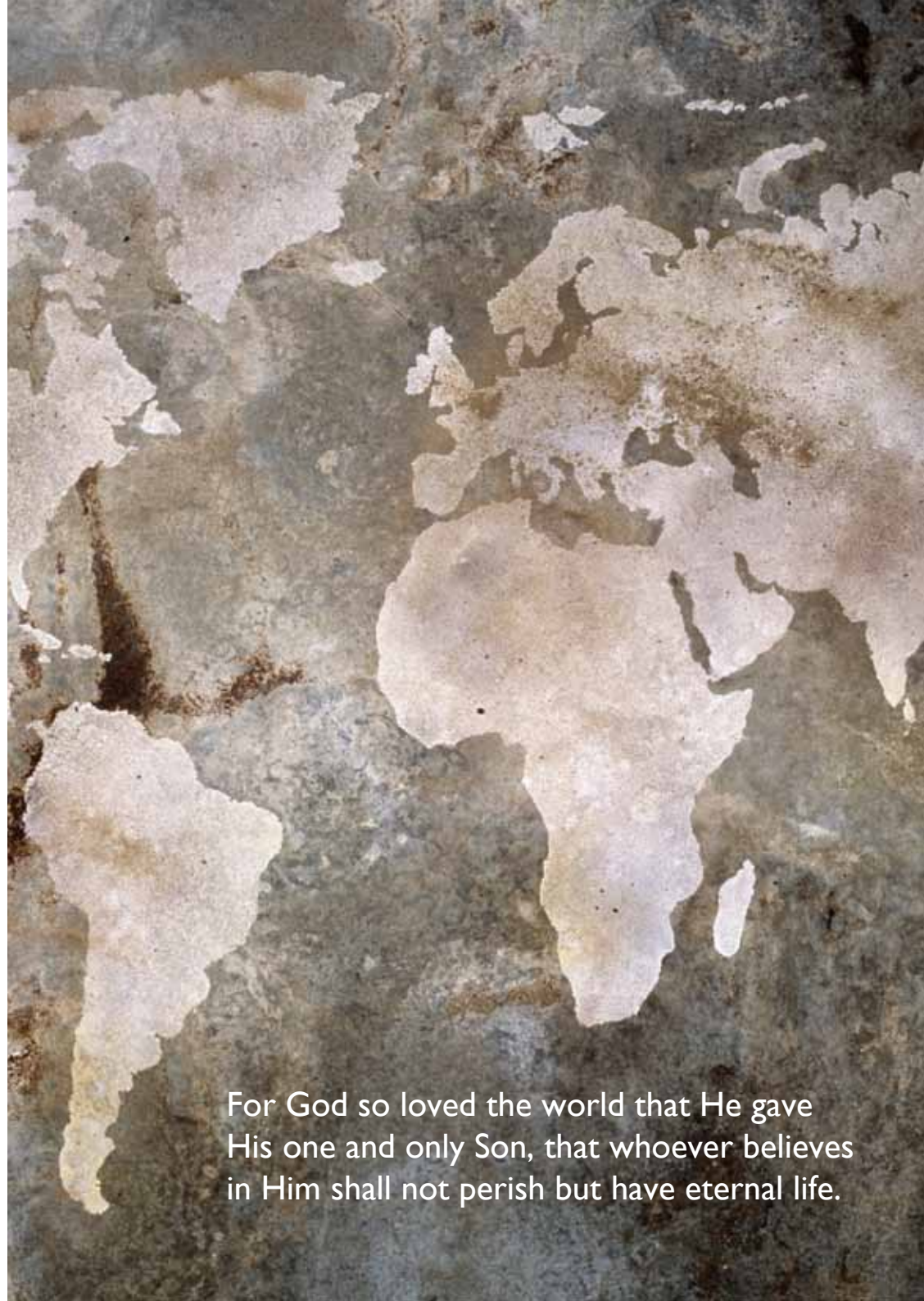
Evangelism means sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. It is about telling the story of our faith, witnessing to the difference Christian faith makes, and inviting others to know Christ and be part of his church. Its aim is to make disciples of Christ so that God's kingdom may be established here on earth.

It happens in many different ways. But all of us have a part to play. Some will have a specific gift and calling to share the message of Christ. Others will play their part just by being enabled to talk about their faith with colleagues, friends and neighbours. Some will run groups to help people find out about the Christian faith. Others will play a supportive role, offering hospitality and friendship.

In the diocese of Chelmsford we need a ministry of evangelism to be as normal a part of parish life as worship on Sundays. For without an on-going ministry of evangelism we will fail in our responsibility to answer the call that Jesus gives us at the end of Matthew's gospel "to make disciples." And if we are not making and growing disciples all the other things we long to do to make a difference in the world will falter.

This publication begins to set out some of the issues and opportunities that can help us evangelise effectively, and in ways that suit our different circumstances. One of the aspirations of *Transforming Presence* is that every benefice should have an Evangelism Enabler; that is someone whose role it is to develop a ministry of evangelism in each local church. Identifying, supporting and training someone in this role might just be the key to getting everything else, not just onto the agenda, but into the bloodstream.

+Stephen
Bishop of Chelmsford



For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Why evangelism?

THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF EVANGELISM is the act of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in our neighbourhoods. As church we have a commission to share God's remarkable offer of reconciliation with him and a new life in Jesus Christ.

This ministry is important in today's society, as many no longer connect with their local church and have less understanding of the Christian faith than previous generations.

This means we must go out to people and not wait for them to come to us.

But how can we do this effectively in a way that connects with 21st century people?

How can we be equipped as churches to make the most of mission and evangelistic opportunities?



There are some who are natural at sharing the gospel, but most of us need help to develop our skills. When it comes to evangelism we have the advantage that God himself is the Evangelist. He wants people everywhere to know his love for them through Christ and he invites us to join with him in this work.

For many the thought of speaking about our faith is not natural. At the same time we long for our friends, neighbours or relatives to discover Christ for themselves.

DO YOU WANT YOUR CHURCH to reach people in your parish or benefice more effectively?

DO YOU WANT PEOPLE you are in touch with through work or leisure to be transformed through the presence of Christ?

DO YOU WANT TO WITNESS the change that happens when the Kingdom of God breaks into your network and community?

If so we offer training, resources and financial support so that you might make connections and evangelise more effectively in your area.

Sharing the good news together..

As the church we share the good news of Jesus Christ by both word and action.
A mission of the whole church, living out the gospel in many ways...

www.capuk.org



www.messychurch.org

www.trusselltrust.org/foodbank-projects



www.healingonthestreets.com



www.streetpastors.co.uk



www.hopeuk.org



Getting started...

Parish visits

Your area or diocesan Evangelism Advisers are available to speak to your PCC, congregation or clergy chapter and offer advice, ideas, support and training in evangelism. We often find that churches are quite enthusiastic about mission and evangelism but do not know where to start. This is where we can help.



Short courses to help you

These normally take place during Lent and Eastertide and are excellent in helping Christians grow in personal faith, in understanding God's call and in sharing faith.

Short course topics may change each year but in past years these have included;

- The Faith we Share
- How does your Church Grow?
- Enabling Evangelism
- Listening for Life

Short courses can also be run locally for groups of churches or deaneries.

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Evangelism Enablers

Evangelism Enablers are Christians who have a gift and passion to share their faith with others and are willing to teach and support others in this important ministry.

We are working towards each parish having an Evangelism Enabler who will play a key leadership role in their church, encouraging, training and resourcing others to engage in the church's evangelistic task. Are there people in your church who might fit this role? Training is given, followed by a diocesan certificate and authorisation by the Bishop of Chelmsford.

National Training for Pioneers

The Mission-Shaped Ministry course takes place within the diocese each year. This is a comprehensive training in leadership and team building for those who are looking to develop new forms of mission and expressions of church.

Local and national facilitators offer principles and practical guidance that will enable your church to make connections more effectively within your community.

Invitation and Welcome

Everyone would agree that these are key attributes that every church should display. When a person comes to a church service they want and deserve to feel welcomed and included.

How we invite, welcome and include people is a vital ministry and reflects the inclusiveness and welcome demonstrated by Jesus Himself.

Training, help and advice is available from your area and diocesan Evangelism Advisers if you would like to review the quality of your welcome to visitors and regular worshippers.



Everybody Welcome

Is a four session course for all the church that can be run either on a Saturday or over four evenings. It teaches basic principles in all areas of how we can improve the visitors experience when encountering church for the first time.

www.everybodywelcome.org.uk

Back to Church Sunday

Beginning in one Church of England diocese and now worldwide, Back to Church Sunday has proved effective in encouraging former worshippers to give church another try. Church members invite their friends and neighbours to come back to church and encourage them to belong once again.

www.backtochurch.co.uk

Mystery Worshipper

Mystery Worshipper is based on an original idea from the 'Ship of Fools' website since the 1990's www.ship-of-fools.com.

A Mystery Worshipper is invited by a church and attends a Sunday service as just another newcomer. Afterwards they fill in a form which asks questions on many aspects of the church visited.

Examples include:

- Clear signs?
- Entrance?
- Car parking?

- Initial welcome?
- Seating?
- Hymnbooks?

- Child friendly?
- Accessibility of service?
- Sermon?

- Refreshments?
- Were you spoken to?
- A good exit?

If you would like to consider inviting a 'mystery worshipper' to your church or would like to become a diocesan Mystery Worshipper go to:

www.chelmsford.anglican.org/mysteryworshipper



Faith sharing courses

There are several courses which are specifically designed to help you and your church share your faith. They will teach and inspire you in how to listen to others, tell your story and help people to come to know Christ personally.

Becoming a contagious Christian

A well tried six session course designed to equip Christians for effective relationship evangelism. It helps believers share their faith in a natural way while remaining the person God made them to be.

www.willowcreek.com

Blowing Your Cover

An evangelism training of six sessions designed to equip people to share their faith confidently among their family and friends. Includes workbooks, leaders guide, and DVD media set.

www.blowingyourcover.com

Breaking News

A course from J. John helping Christians enthuse about their faith and become more effective and confident communicators.

www.philotrust.com

Lost for Words All Ages

A resource to help people of every age share their faith naturally. It includes three separate courses (children, youth and adult) with leaders notes, a CD-ROM with PowerPoint presentations, hand-outs, activities and publicity material.

www.cpas.org.uk/shop

Mind the Gap

A course which addresses the issue of the 'gap' between church and today's culture. Six workshops help participants understand better the context in which their church is set. Includes course notes, DVD and supporting materials.

www.agape.org.uk

XEE

A well tried methodology in sharing faith using a framework. The course has been revamped for generation X and Y with booklet and DVD presentation.

www.ee-gb.org.uk

For more information on faith sharing courses go to:

www.chelmsford.anglican.org/evangelism



Be contagious
tell your story

Nurture

Almost all churches that are growing run some form of nurture course, whether a national course like Alpha, Emmaus or Christianity Explored or a home grown one. On average 20% of people who attend nurture courses come to faith in Christ. The facts speak for themselves. These courses are effective, therefore every parish or benefice should offer some form of enquirers or nurture course.

But which one is right for you? Here are some of the most well known. There are many others and churches also produce their own to suit their needs.



Alpha

The most well known with 0.8 % of UK population having done it. Alpha consists of 15 week sessions (some churches shorten it) with DVD and notes. The format is teaching following a meal and table discussion.
www.alpha.org.uk

Emmaus

A widely used modular course over three stages - introduction, nurture and growth. Good for both enquirers and church members looking to renew their faith. Youth Emmaus and Youth Emmaus 2, for 11 to 16 year olds.
www.e-mmaus.org.uk

Y Course

An eight session course for people with little or no church background. Uses DVD and booklets.
www.ycourse.com

Christianity Explored

A ten session course based on Mark's Gospel that explores who Jesus is, why he came and what it means to follow him. CY is a youth version of seven weeks with talks, studies, games and activities.
www.christianityexplored.com

Essence

A six week course for those who may consider themselves 'spiritual' rather than religious seekers. Free download. www.sharejesusinternational.com
kids@essence is a leaders guide with six activity sessions for children aged 7-11.
www.cpas.org.uk

Foundations21

An online modular study programme, offering flexibility and a choice of learning styles. Exploring what it means to be a disciple of Christ.
www.foundations21.org.uk

Journeys

A five week DVD journey exploring the Christian faith through people's stories. Accompanying booklet.
www.willowcreek.org.uk

Start

A six week introduction to the Christian faith for use in small groups. God for those who have no previous knowledge of anything Christian.
www.leadingyourchurchintogrowth.org.uk

God is closer than you think


A six session study course aimed at helping Christians experience God's presence in the business of everyday life. Includes DVD clips, Bible study and group discussions.
www.zondervan.com

These are just a sample of what is available to help your church bring others to faith.

For a comprehensive list of over 60 discipleship and nurture courses go to:

www.chelmsford.anglican.org/nurture

On average
20% of people
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nurture courses
come to faith
in Christ



If you have a vision to start something new which has a mission or evangelistic focus then it may be you will qualify for financial help for your project or initiative

Funding

Mission Opportunity Fund (MOF)

For over four years the Diocese has been operating this fund to help us make connections with the wider community.

If you have a vision to start something new which has a mission or evangelistic focus then it may be you will qualify for financial help for your initiative.

This fund can help you reach those who would normally have no contact with the church.

www.chelmsford.anglican.org/mof

Continual Ministerial Development (CMD) grants

For those in licenced ministry in the diocese, grants may be awarded for mission and evangelism training courses.

www.chelmsford.anglican.org/cmd

My Story



Since my confirmation, I continue to find spiritual nourishment from reading the Bible, praying and attending church services. This has helped me to cement friendships with Christians who in turn help me to grow within the church family. Faith is a fantastic adventure in trusting God and every morning I thank Him. He has taught me to use all my senses - to take time to really listen with my ears, to open my eyes and to really see. He touches my life in so many different ways. My life has changed but I still consider myself as work in progress. Yes, I stumble and I fall many times, but God never gives up on me. When I centre on His love, I always find my way back on the path that will lead me to him.

Sandra



For several years I occasionally attended my local church, such as carol services and some social events. But it was at a church weekend away that faith for me came alive. I was expecting to just take part in the social events and not any “churchy” stuff and so went trainspotting whilst the others took part in the more spiritual activities. While staring at trains on Cardiff station it dawned on me that there was more to life than this. Later that evening I joined the “churchy” crowd to hear someone say that ‘you are more than what you have become’. This convicted me of my need to know Jesus Christ and since then I have been baptised and confirmed. I now have peace inside despite some health issues and that only comes from knowing Christ - and I still like trains!

Alan



I have recently become a Christian. My mum asked me along to an Alpha course at my local church and I have not looked back. I have met some amazing people and made some of the best friends you could be blessed with. I'll be honest it wasn't easy asking Jesus into my life but I did and ever since he has flooded my world with peace and love. I am still at the beginning of my journey as a Christian but with the love of Almighty God, my family and friends, I know I'm in for an awesome ride that's going to give me a real purpose in life. I don't know why I didn't do it sooner?

Sarah

Get in touch



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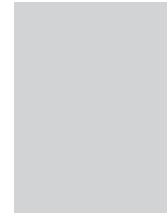


Bradwell Area Evangelism Adviser

Revd Simon Roscoe

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Colchester Area Rural Evangelism Adviser

Soon to be appointed

Contact Charlie Kosla as above



The Church of England
in Essex and East London

Diocese of Chelmsford

The Barking Area of the Diocese of Chelmsford comprises the five London Boroughs of Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Waltham Forest and three Deaneries of Epping Forest, Harlow and Ongar.

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