

THE DIOCESE OF LONDON



COMMUNITY MINISTRY

**Mission and Ministry
The Diocese of London**

WHAT IS COMMUNITY MINISTRY?

The Term 'community ministry' is increasingly used in our diocese. Essentially community ministry involves:

1. Creating a *structure of participation* that draws on the commitment of both those from the church and the wider parish in response to an issue of local concern.
2. Enabling people to reflect on their experiences associated with their involvement in a project in order to break through conventional thinking and stereotypes.
3. Through the encounter with those who are marginalised to discover the distinctive message of the Gospel and God's gift of his Son.

Community Ministry therefore takes seriously that the Church and the Christian faith can make distinctive contributions to the wellbeing of both people and the communities in which we live.

The London Challenge

At the heart of our diocesan challenge is the commitment to serve London and all its people by staying present in every community, with a priority commitment to serving the poor and disadvantaged. As the London Challenge is updated for 2007-2012, it will:

- emphasise the importance of targeting grants of the Mission Fund to equip and support those working in our areas of greatest need- the diocesan supported parishes.
- encourage our parishes to engage confidently with regeneration projects, including Thames Gateway, King's Cross, the Olympic site etc.
- underline the importance of 'Faithful Capital'- the identifiable presence of Christian Faith and its role in enriching our society.

'Faithful Cities'

The report of the Commission on Urban Life and Faith stresses the importance of **Faithful Capital** – the contribution that faith groups make to the communities in which they live and serve. The Church Urban Fund has produced a toolkit to help parishes assess their contribution (www.cuf.org.uk) The report also highlights the **Impact of Inequality**, so we need to remember that London is a checker-board of wealthy and poor neighbourhoods as we seek to bring healing and build community. The report also challenges us to reflect on **What makes a Good City**, and to recommit ourselves to building less divided, sustainable communities – places where everyone can use their imagination, their creativity and achieve their God-given potential.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY ADVICE FOR PARISHES

The support provided to parishes can be summarised as follows:

- Helping parishes to identify the needs of their local community and decide how to get involved...
E.g. doing a neighbourhood survey, parish profile or audit; looking at census data; consulting local people and organisations; identifying key people to work with etc.
- Advising on the setting up community projects and initiatives in response to these needs
E.g. doing a feasibility study; getting people involved; finding volunteers; setting up a management committee; charity registration; identifying aims and objectives; the flexible use of Church buildings; fundraising, including applications to the Church Urban Fund etc.
- Encouraging parishes to develop a theological perspective in relation to their community involvement and concern
E.g. leading sessions with congregation; PCC or planning group

COMMUNITY MINISTRY NETWORK

This network has been set-up to provide advice and support for already established groups and organisations involved in practical social responsibility in London Diocese. The Community Ministry Adviser has an important role in

Supporting those associated with the Network. For example:

- **Providing Network Opportunities**
- *E.g. opportunities to meet regularly with the Area Bishop and others engaged in community ministry; convening 'peer groups' to enable people to share experience around specific themes etc.*
- **Consultancy**
- *E.g. fundraising advice; negotiating payroll support; project and organisational development; re-ordering halls/churches for flexible community use; mission action planning*
- **Designing and delivering training**
- *E.g. training for management committees, volunteers and workers in the above areas and other aspects of discipleship and mission*

USEFUL CONTACTS

Church Urban Fund (www.cuf.org.uk) offers a range of support to those challenging poverty in the most deprived (top 10%) areas of the country. Applications for funding must be made through the diocese, and must agree with diocesan priorities. For further information contact the Community Ministry Adviser, Jack Maple at 020 7932 1122 or email:

jack.maple@london.anglican.org

To obtain an application form for the Mustard Seed programme (small grants up to £5k), contact Marlon Nelson at 020 7932 1123 or email:

marlon.nelson@london.anglican.org

Community Ministry E Newsletter is produced regularly and contains dates of network meetings, funding initiatives, training events etc. To receive these updates please pass your contact details to Marlon or Mary Nada – details below.

National Estates Churches Network seeks to resource urban practitioners, clergy and laity, living, working, ministering on large housing estates. We organise an annual, national conference, as well as other events across the dioceses of London, Southwark and Chelmsford. For more information see www.nationalestatechurches.org

Diocesan Youth Project is a shared initiative with the Children's Society to map the extent of youth work taking place across the five Episcopal areas. The project workers will advise parishes about issues of good practise, provide a supportive network for church youth workers and deliver guidance to youth projects as they reach out to 'at risk' groups of young people. Contact the senior project worker, **Kate Hawkins** on 020 7932 1127 or email:

kate.hawkins@childsoc.org.uk

London Diocesan House

Currently the community ministry database extends to almost 500 people, representing over 200 social action initiatives. Although the majority of these are Anglican the network involves representatives from a wide range of denominations including a significant number of Black majority churches. To join the network or to discuss any of the above issues contact:

Jack Maple, Community Ministry Adviser at 020 7932 1122 or email:

jack.maple@london.anglican.org or **Marlon Nelson** (Mon-Tue) 020 7932 1123 or email: marlon.nelson@london.anglican.org

Mary Nada is available to support the work of community ministry in the Diocese. Contact 020 7932 1215 or email:

mary.nada@london.anglican.org