

4. Making contacts with Deaf children, young people and their families. Creating opportunities to come together

- * Pray for open doors in Deaf schools, groups and colleges.
- * Recruit part-time worker to visit schools etc, to build relationship with children, families and young people.
- * Recruit and train volunteers for helping with events.
- * Create links with Deaf Youth 4 Christ group.
- * In consultation with Deaf children and families, create a series of one-off events to make links with existing Deaf church and Chaplaincy.
- * In consultation with Deaf young people and families, create a Deaf Christian youth group.
- * Within the Deaf Church:
 - develop family-friendly worship opportunities.
 - develop a series of social activities for families to come to and mix with Deaf Christians.

RESOURCES NEEDED

Funding to be secured for min of 3 years.

Person to be recruited for making regular visits to Deaf schools and groups.

CRB checks for all volunteers.

Small team of youth leaders to be employed to run monthly events.

Admin support for part-time worker

L.C.2012: 3: We are committed to telling the story of Jesus Christ afresh for this generation and especially for the young.

REVIEW AND EVALUATION

The Diocesan Deaf Working group meets together three times a year. The agenda will be divided into the four main components, and time given equally to examining progress and making detailed plans for each next step. Four members of the DDWG will take responsibility for a component, and will work with the Chaplain to ensure that aims are met.

The Chaplain will continue to meet with the Archdeacon of Charing Cross on a monthly basis to provide a check and balance for her work.

An annual report will provide a review of achievements and plans for the coming year. This will be circulated widely and also be put on the Chaplaincy pages of the Diocesan website.

Please join with the Deaf Church and Chaplaincy in prayer, that we may achieve our aims, and all to the Glory of God.

January 2009

CHAPLAINCY AMONG DEAF & DEAF / BLIND PEOPLE

MISSION ACTION PLAN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There is a rich tradition of Deaf Christian outreach and support to the wider Deaf community, within the Deaf Church. The Royal Association for Deaf people has provided a Chaplain, sometimes Deaf, sometimes hearing, but always fluent in British Sign Language (BSL) to work with them.



In 2005 the Diocese of London took over this role, appointing Rev Anne Richardson to the post. Her work is overseen by the Diocesan Deaf working Group (DDWG) with representatives from each Area of the Diocese and from the Deaf Church. Together with the Chaplain they spearhead the work of the Chaplaincy, in accordance with the commitments of the [London Challenge 2012](#).

ON ARRIVAL, 2005

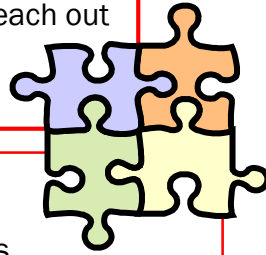
- Deaf Church meeting 3 times a month using Deaf Centres at Hayes and Acton, led by Deaf priest & Reader
- 3 Parishes with regular signed services.
- Two new Deaf worship meetings started, Hounslow and Central London.
- Annual Services for Memorial and Advent introduced.
- 11 parishes with regular signed services, developing Deaf ministry.

AFTER 3 YEARS:

- Deaf Church meeting 4 times a month at Hayes and Acton, working with the Deaf leaders and newly formed Deaf Church Council.
- Diocesan services interpreted into BSL and BSL-interpreted tours offered at St Paul's Cathedral.
- BSL courses for parishes with Deaf members and regular groups to encourage students.

VISION STATEMENT:

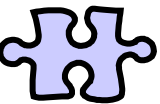
A vibrant Deaf Church empowered and equipped to reach out in mission and ministry to the wider Deaf community across the Diocese.



KEY COMPONENTS:

1. Deaf people using their God-given gifts as priests, lay ministers, evangelists, youth-workers and pastoral visitors.
2. 'Hearing' parishes with vision and skill to enable local Deaf ministry, at least one in each Diocesan Area.
3. Network of 'cell-type' Deaf Church groups for fellowship, local mission and spiritual growth.
4. An ongoing programme of outreach and activity for Deaf children and young people, enabling them to grow in faith.

FIRST STEPS: TO BE COMPLETED BY 2012



1. A team of Deaf Christians developing their gifts and their leadership of the Deaf Church groups

- * Invite Deaf 'role models' in a regular programme of visits
- * Give opportunities for vocational discernment
- * Develop a culture of Deaf "Can DO"
- * Encourage the use of Deaf Anglicans Together conferences and similar to develop confidence and skills
- * Provide opportunities for individuals to take initiative, practise leadership and pastoral skills on a small scale with limited responsibility
- * Give training in basic skills and tools needed for different ministries in culturally appropriate ways.

RESOURCES NEEDED

Deaf role models willing to come.

Funding to pay expenses

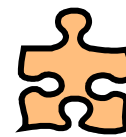
Venue for regular away-day/ residential

Finance to support attendance of conferences and training.

Mentors to support, guide & encourage.

Funding for Interpreters when hearing trainers used

L.C.2012: 2: We are committed to equipping the servants of Jesus Christ



2. Working in partnership, develop communication skills and Deaf awareness in one Parish within each Diocesan Area.

- * Continue to encourage parish churches running BSL level 1 courses, providing training and support for students.
- * Offer Deaf awareness events for congregations and groups.
- * Identify Key 'Link' person in the parish and work together to develop Deaf ministry appropriate for area & people
- * Provide regular signing group for discussion and learning about Christian signing.
- * Encourage and aid Level 1 students to go onto Level 2
- * Visit every Deanery to raise awareness and identify parishes where signed ministry can be started.
- * DDWG to communicate with Deanery Synods regularly.

RESOURCES NEEDED

Volunteer to be found to co-ordinate courses & assessments.

Extra projector and laptop needed for tutors.

Funding to enable grants for suitable students.

For Senior Staff and Bishops to encourage Deaneries to take up the challenge of Deaf ministry.

L.C.2012: 4: We are committed to serving London and all her people: maintaining our presence in every community with a particular bias to serving the poor and vulnerable.



3. To consolidate existing Deaf Church groups and establish one new group in another Diocesan Area.

- * For existing groups to begin to develop more structure and leadership.
- * Identify & meet pastoral needs of members to enable spiritual growth.
- * Plan & carry out small outreach events
- * Commit to Fair Trade in all Deaf groups
- * Develop link with Deaf group through ALMA
- * Plant new group; 1st visit Deaf clubs etc to build relationships and find Christians. 2nd Allow group to establish place, time and 'shape' of worship.

RESOURCES NEEDED

Pastoral workers and leaders, fluent in BSL, to work under the direction of the Chaplain to enable groups to develop and individuals to grow in faith.

Admin assistant to prepare monthly newsletters, posters, visual resources for worship and publicity for outreach.

Well managed Website

Funding for the above

L.C.2012: 1: We are committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ: we will support traditional ways of being church: we will continue to develop fresh expressions of church.

L.C.2012: 5: We are committed to expressing God's love in our World City.