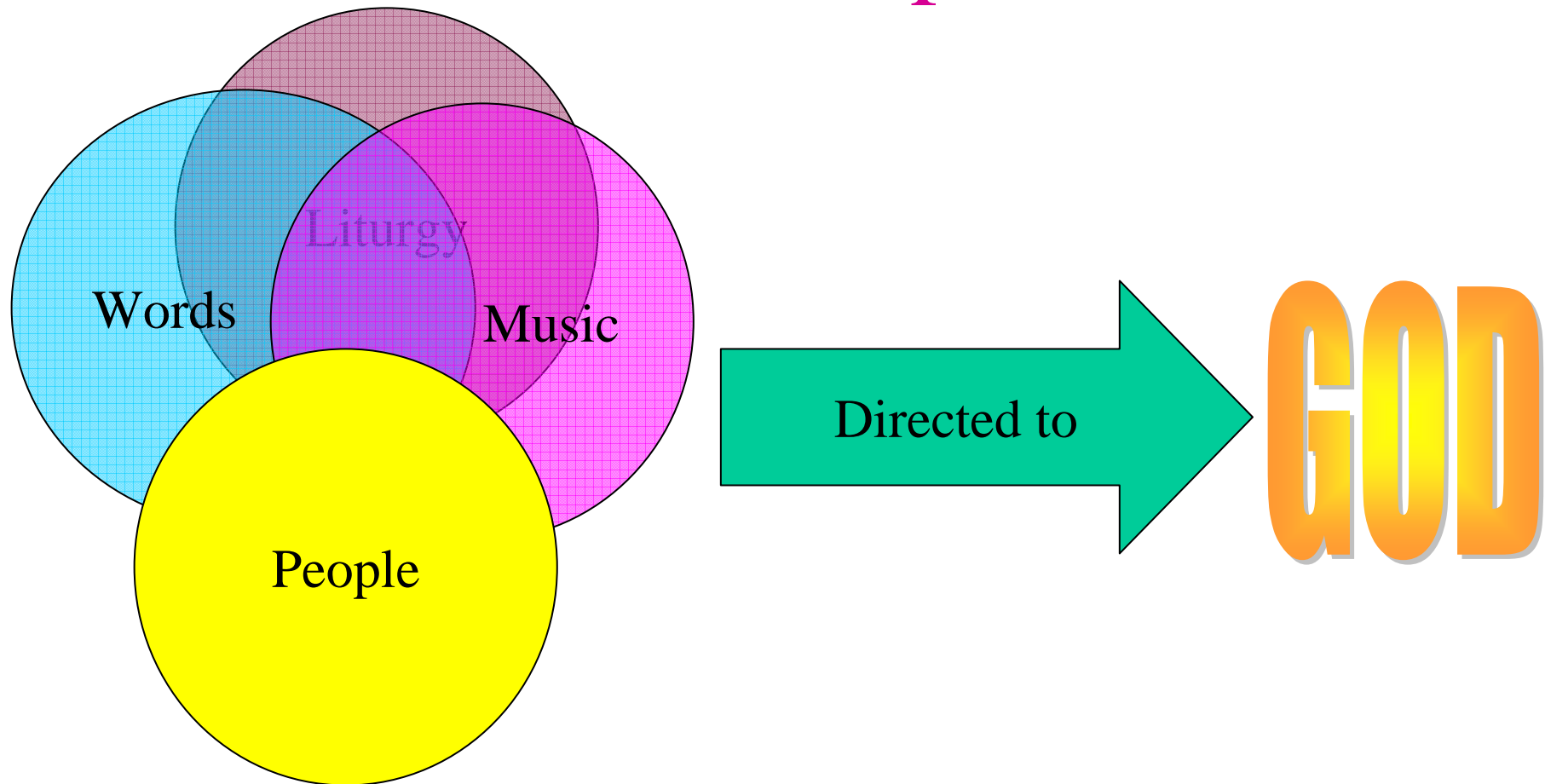


London Church Music Forum: Thoughts from the survey and beyond

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Worship



Music and its place in Liturgy and Worship

- An integral and essential part of our church services that lifts our spirits and minds heavenwards
- A component of collectively offering ourselves through prayer and praise to Almighty God.
- Its quality must always be one of excellence that comes from development of skills and adequate preparation.
 - Anything less detracts from worship and discourages participation in the life of the church.



Wake Up Call - Ephesians 5

- “Awake, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”
- Learn to judge for yourselves what is pleasing unto God.
- Be careful how you live... make the most of your time.
- Understand what the will of the Lord is.
- Be filled with the Spirit as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves.
- Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,
- Giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Sing and make music to the Lord,

- For too long we have stood by as the vitality, numbers of people and the musical content of parish church services has ebbed away.
- But there are signs that the tide is turning as people explore their spirituality.
- Here in St Paul's extra services are being added at the major festivals to accommodate those who are seeking to connect with God.
- Today's forum is about re-energising and renewing that vitality into our parish churches.
 - Replicating the growth but not necessarily the style of st Paul's
 - For some this means starting from scratch
 - For others it will be about raising 'the game' to new heights.



Becoming Custodians for our Age

- Planning and choosing music with the clergy and service leaders that will enhance the quality of worship.
 - NB: Music not Musak!
- Encourage people of all ages, to give of their time. participating and contributing to the music-making.
 - NB: Keep Music live!
- Grow and develop the next generation of musicians and music leaders to secure sustainability.
 - Do this deliberately and purposefully
- Do everything with quality!



London Diocese

- Population 3,500,000
- Christian 58%, 10% undeclared (2001 census)
- 1,827,000 Christian of which say 30% are C of E.=548,100
- i.e. churches each could have 1000+ attendees
- Electoral roll is 69000, adding, say 25% for children and others C of E population is ~86250 or 186 per Church
- With existing numbers a music group of around 10% or 18 people per church ought to be feasible.



From the Survey 2005



Music Survey

- Small number of returns
- <15% of existing choirs and music groups have significant numbers of children.
 - 50%+ of children attended Sunday school in 1950s ; only 3% in 2003.
- Limited participation from people in their teenage years.
 - Seem to grow out of church around age 14 as school exams and other interests develop.
- Difficult to keep and attract more adults.
 - People are sometimes talent rich but invariably time-poor
 - Committing to a weekly cycle of rehearsals and services often impracticable.



Traditional Choirs

- Difficult to attract and retain musicians and choir members
 - Future existence is under serious threat.
- Securing commit to regular weekly practices and Sunday services.
- Depleted junior and youth sections of choirs
 - Absence of a singing tradition in state schools makes it difficult to recruit singers.
 - Public schools are so busy that there is a reluctance to offer support to Parish music.
 - Singing Campaign launched in March 2007 is orientated towards schools
 - No apparent links with music in parish churches but there are plans to involve cathedral choirs
 - Timescales linked to Olympics of 2012.
- Absence of one or more parts makes it difficult to prepare and present interesting music
- New ways of working together and support the growth of church music are urgently required.



Music Groups

- Cover a variety of traditions including folk groups, gospel singers through to 'rock' bands.
- Capable of providing an interesting and valuable new approach to engaging more people in worship.
- Some churches with traditional choirs have extended their musical offerings by adding singing groups and instrumentalists.
 - Enables more people to contribute and adds variety to music in worship.
- Reaching and retaining a high standard requires similar commitment to rehearsal, preparation as classical four-part music.
- Provides opportunities for instrumentalists to contribute to liturgy and worship
 - Style of music may limit scope for singers to develop their skills.



Investing in the Future

- *Need to take the best ideas from both styles and build a sustainable pattern of quality church music that is rich, diverse and attainable.*
- *Need for some resource and financial investment from the Church and the Diocese to support development of music leaders.*
- *Connecting People, Networking, Awareness, Adding-up and Making best use of rich resources of London.*



Motivating for Mission



Mission-shaped Parish

- Values for a Missionary Church
 - *God the Trinity*- the target of our love, learning and worship.
 - *Incarnational*- shape to the culture in which it is located
 - *Transformation*- of the community through the Gospel and Holy Spirit.
 - *Makes disciples*- using people's gifts and talents and investing in the development of leaders to spread the Christian faith in the community.
 - *Relational*- welcome, friendship and hospitality and open to change

Ref:

Mission-shaped parish: traditional church in a changing context

Paul Bayes and Tim Sledge 2006 Church House Publishing ISBN-13 978-0-7151-4083-3



Applying Values to Music in Worship



God the Trinity

- Music for the Glory of God
 - Not a concert performance
 - Part of our offerings to God
 - Always aspire to the highest quality delivered with humility
 - Prayer, planning. preparation and purposeful practice



What Kind of Worship ?

- Living in the Past- Museum!
- Living just for today- Fashion parade!
- Living for Life-”evolving traditions”

- Like the sower,
 - Seek out the good ground and apply our time and talents to achieve longevity and best effect.



Incarnational

- Know the people and the cultures that exist in your parish
- Explore and experiment to find what adds to worship in your parish
- Be prepared to try different styles of worship and music so that all parts of the community can be drawn-in.
- Beware of fashion; many people crave a stable and secure spiritual side to life.



Transformational

- Aim to reach and serve all the community
- Plan and provide services worship activities
 - Arouse un-churched people's curiosity and draw them to the church.
 - Re-engage with people who have become de-churched.
 - Retain and sustain people at different stages of their spiritual journey.
- Music in these services may need to be different
 - Always needs to be well-planned and prepared to enhance and add-to the worship experience.



Making Disciples

- Know your community
 - Schools and their music department
 - Musicians and singers who live in the parish
 - People with musical talent who worship at your church
- Provide every encouragement and support for all who can to become involved
 - Remember we each only have 168 hours a week and each person has to make their own choice how to allocate them.
 - Find ways to include people who are talent-rich but time-poor.
 - Pay particular attention to development opportunities for children, teenagers and young adults.
- Create leaders for growth and sustainability



Relational

- Clergy, Musicians and People working together in a friendly and supportive manner.
- Being open and willing to explore new ideas in liturgy, worship and music
 - Draw on the rich palette of music from all periods
 - Everything should be done with the aim of beautifying and adding to the value of worship that helps people on their journey of faith.
- Make your congregation confident of the quality of worship in their church
 - so they are proud and keen to invite neighbours and friends to join with them.



Getting into Shape

- Planning and Preparation
- Resources and Finance
- Support from Others
- Change Management
- Measuring Outcomes
- Evolution rather than Revolution?
- Consistent bite-size progress will in time consume the elephant and produce lasting success.

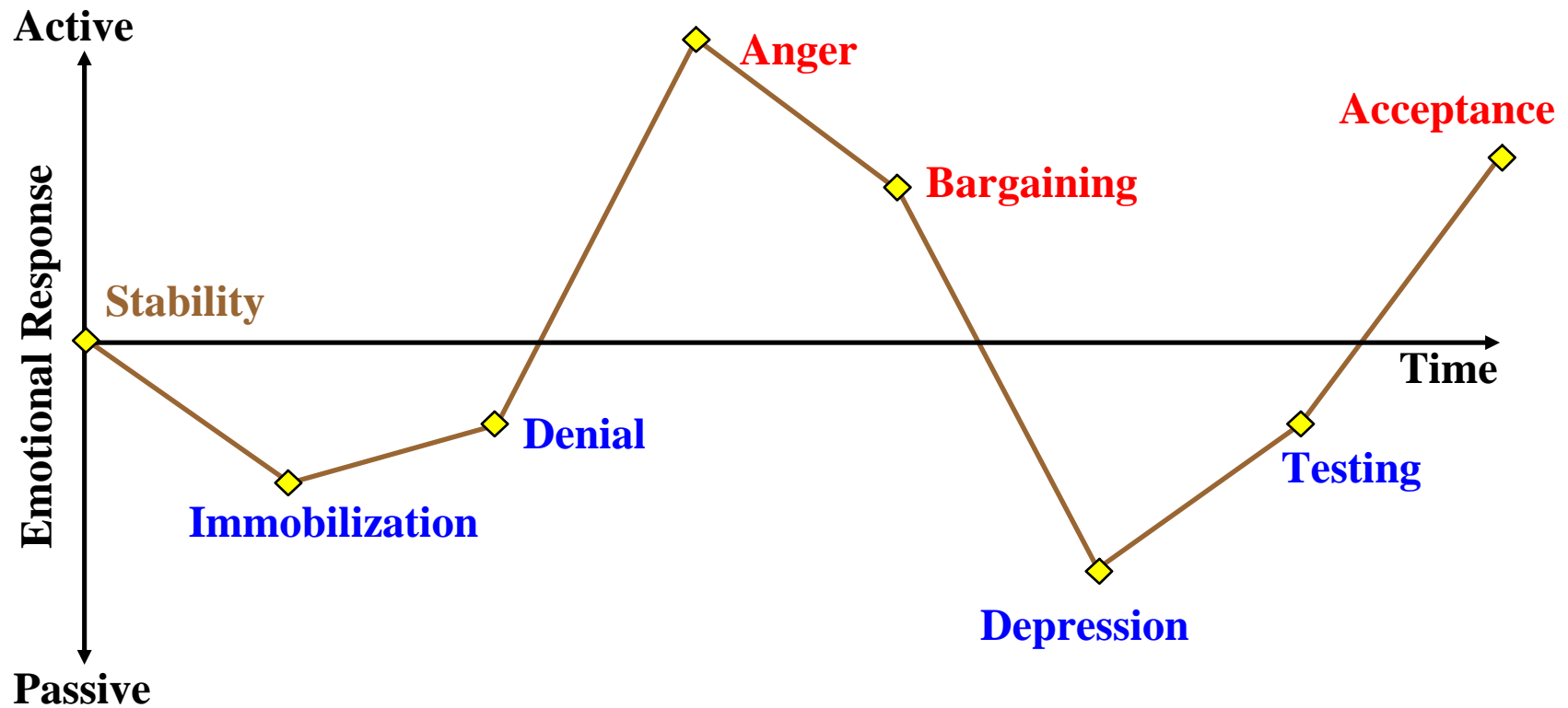


Getting Results

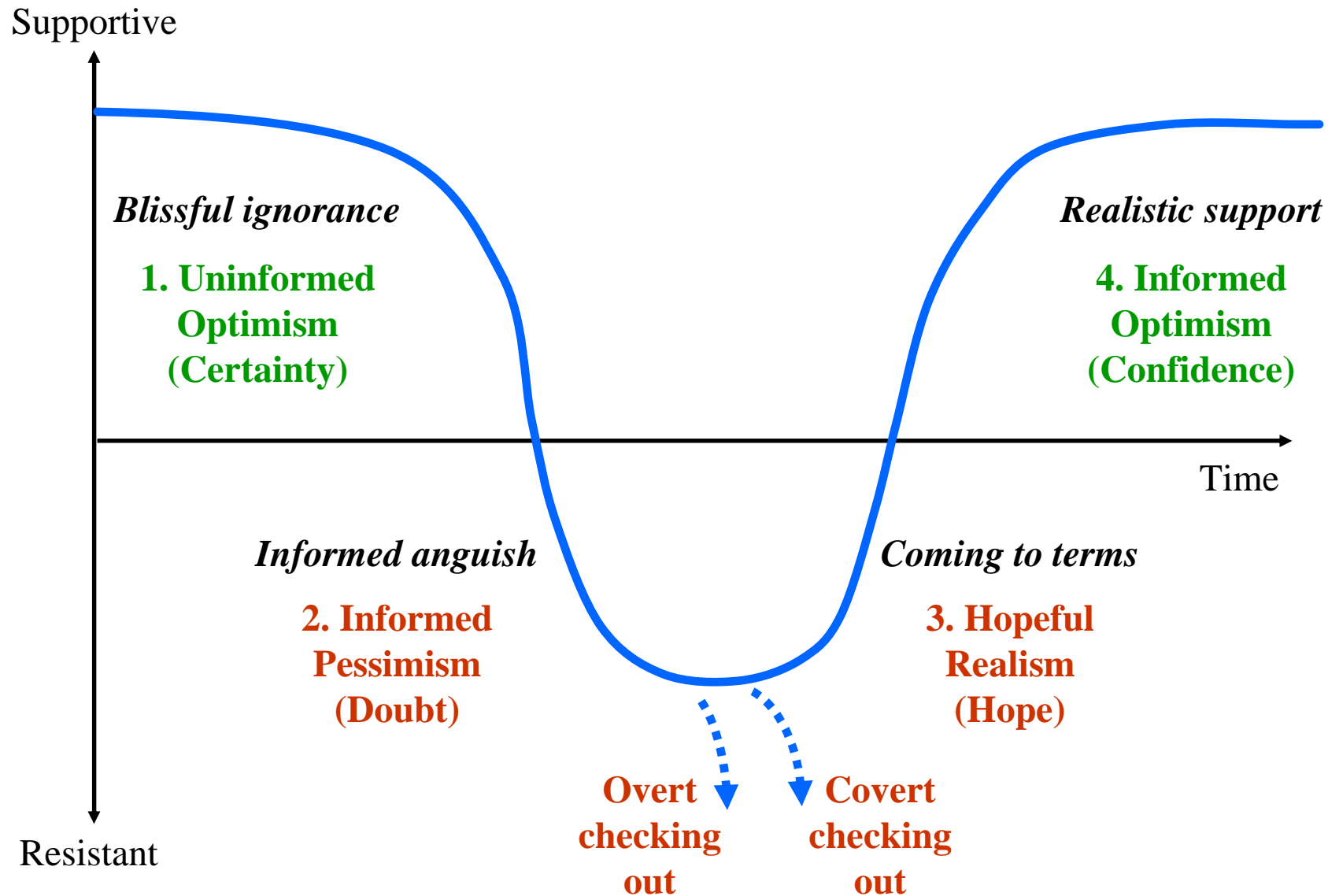
- Prayer
- Planning
- Preparation
- Practice
- Produces
- Profound
- Performance



Negative Response to Change



Positive Response to Change



Getting Started in the Parish

- Build up your knowledge of the community
- Plan and start doing something new in the next six months that will make a difference to your parishes mission and music;
 - Those quick off the mark could do something for Christmas
 - Everybody should aim to have some achievements by Easter 2008 (March 23rd 2008)
- Seek help and Support your neighbouring parishes and their efforts
- Learn from each other.



Develop Your Own Skills

- Listen to how others perform and present music both for concerts and church.
- Schedule time for regular critical practice
 - Including hymns and songs as well as the ‘difficult’ stuff.
 - Listen critically to your own playing.
- Plan and prepare for rehearsals and services every time.
- Consider getting some lessons or attend an event in your instrument, singing or conducting.
- Suggest reads:
 - Joyful Noise: the why, what and how of music in church Tim Rishton, Holy Trinity Press, Skipton 2006 ISBN 0-9554393-0-2
 - Immediate Practical tips for choral directors John Bertalot Augsburg Fortress, 1994 ISBN 0-8066-2810-3



Working with People who are Time Poor- one approach

- Develop an annual cycle of principal festival and occasions, say 6-8 occasions
 - Advent- Renewal, Christmas- Carol services,
 - Holy Week- Meditation & Reflection, Easter- Praise, Whitsunday-Spirit, Harvest-Thanksgiving, etc
- Some lend themselves to bespoke services, others provide scope for more musical input.
- Plan music for available resources and talents within the parish
- Schedule limited rehearsals, say 2-3 for an event
 - Always aim for excellence to build credibility and interest.
 - You want people to ask for more events.
- Start off simply with a one-off and invite members of the congregation of all ages to participate
 - A personal invitation will always work better!
- Build the cycle over a couple of years



Sustaining and Enlivening Music in London's Churches



Enlivening Activities- Done

- Conduct Survey
- Develop Infrastructure
 - Add musicians to Diocesan database



Create an information infrastructure

- Develop a Music section in the website
- Create an e-Newsletter
- Develop knowledge about the musical resources in London which might be approached and use to help a church music development programme at area and individual parish level.
- Other needs?



Today's Forum

- **Discussion Session 1**
 - Sharing of thoughts between different traditions and styles and different parts of the Diocese.
 - What are the Issues and challenges facing church music and musicians in London?
- **Discussion Session 2**
 - What are you going to do at the Area level?
 - Who will help to take matters forward to the next stage?
 - What support do you need from the Diocese and from Organisations?



What needs to be done in the Areas and Locally

- Develop and share ideas, tactics and methods to get more people involved in music-making in our churches
- Provide support for pairing and mentoring at a local level
 - *A problem shared is a problem halved!*
- Identify needs in terms of events, training and support.
- Organise local festivals and fund-raising programmes.



What needs to be done for the Diocese?

- Develop and manage the infrastructure, website and newsletter
- Co-ordinate events diary and their provision
- Work with the contributing organisations to secure an added-up programme that helps musicians at parish level
- Co-ordinate and support mentoring resources designed to assist clergy and musicians plan and establish the most effective use of music within the liturgy and worship.
- Develop a programme to support development and bring more music leaders into church music.



The London Challenge 2012

- **We are committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in 21st century London**
 - We will support traditional ways of being church and encourage the highest standards of worship, witness and service
- Musicians and Music are an essential component of delivering worship and witness.
 - Through our Involvement and Mutual Support we can play our part in meeting this Commitment for London.

