

LONDON CHALLENGE UPDATE AS AT AUTUMN 2005

The London Challenge was launched in January 2002 to focus the London Diocese on some common objectives for the five years finishing in December 2006. In it we set ourselves some specific targets and this document provides an update on progress to date.

The Bishop's Council may like to note that the recent Senior Staff Team Residential Meeting examined the successes and failures of the period since 2002 and began preliminary work to identify what might form the focal points of the follow up to the London Challenge for the period 2007-2012. It is expected that consultation will take place during 2006 before a launch in 2007.

The Challenges

1. Encourage the development of a course in the spirit of Alpha and Emmaus in every parish by 2004

Well over 50% of parishes are currently running such courses and information about the available range of courses has been offered to parishes. We will continue to monitor the take-up of such courses in parishes until the end of this phase of the London Challenge (end 2006) to ensure that opportunities for learning the faith continue to be readily available.

2. Encourage growth in Electoral Rolls to 70,000 by 2005

The Electoral Roll total as at May 2005 stood at 67,873. This is likely to be a conservative figure as the Rolls for several churches have yet to be received. The Electoral Roll totals which have been received have, on average, shown an increase in numbers of 6.6% over 2004 figures. If we estimate the missing Rolls to have increased by the same amount, the total Electoral Roll figure for 2005 is likely to be 68,326.

3. Achieve financial self support by 2003

Achieved

4. Plan for a non-deficit budget by 2005

Achieved

5. Request every Eucharistic community to carry out a training audit on an Area basis by the end of 2004

In the light of the Mission and Ministry work, the training audit target was subsumed within the continuing Mission Action Planning process.

6. Develop Ministry Leadership teams in 50% of our parishes by 2006

Presently the Kensington and Willesden Episcopal areas operate Ministry Leadership teams. Rather than adopt a blanket approach, the Senior Staff will spend time sharing best practice and consider in which other locations this might be appropriate.

7. Establish the St Ethelburga Centre by 2003, the tenth anniversary of the IRA bomb in Bishopsgate

Achieved

8. Establish a vocations centre for minority ethnic Anglicans by 2003

This has not been achieved. It remains our objective to work towards ensuring that church leadership reflects the ethnic make up of our church membership.

9. Plan for two new Church secondary schools by 2006

The LDBS reports good progress towards this objective. The Board has other exciting and ambitious proposals which are to be discussed by the College of Bishops in the near future. In particular, the Bishops will be discussing how they might assist in brokering these proposals with potential funders.

10. Develop a fully interactive London web site and e-mail network by 2003

Achieved

11. Retain at least 480 clergy, men and women, in parish and specialist ministry. Seek out inventive ways to fund additional clergy and provide ongoing training for them all

There are presently 446 clergy on Common Fund. At least 50 off Common Fund posts and many more non-stipendiary ministers and 'honorary clergy'.