London Challenge
2012
Revelation 21 for a 21st century Church

Then I saw a new heaven and new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no more sea. And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,

“Behold the tabernacle of God is with men and he will dwell with them and they shall be his people and God himself will be with them.”
Seven Commitments

We recognise the need for a clear sense of our identity and deep roots but also the imperative to present the gospel afresh in our generation in a world city that struggles to comprehend where its own well-being might lie and how the Christian faith could be relevant.

And so the Church in the Diocese of London assembled in Synod on November 25th 2006 to make the following seven commitments.
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.

We will continue to develop fresh expressions of church including in the work place and in the leisure sector.

We will establish an e-parish with an international membership.

We will implement the recommendations of the Mission and Ministry Report.

We will develop the Diocesan Church Planting policy.

We are committed to equipping the servants of Jesus Christ.

We will implement the recommendations of the Training Review 2006.

We attach high importance to the provision of courses in discipleship and on apologetics.

We attach a high importance to deepening the prayer life of the Diocese.

We continue to encourage vocations to all kinds of ministry.

We will take action to ensure that leadership in the Diocese reflects the range of church membership both in the diversity of ethnic background and in age.
We are determined to maintain our presence in every community with a particular bias to serving the poor and vulnerable.

We will seek to play an active role in regeneration projects including the Thames Gateway, the Kings Cross/St Pancras re-development and the Olympic Site.

We will work with ecumenical and other partners to ensure that there is an Olympic legacy for the people of east London.

We will play an active part in building ecumenical partnerships especially with independent black and ethnic community churches in London.

We will engage with local and national government on behalf of the powerless and re-learn the difficult language of speaking truth to power.

We will serve the wider community through our work in developing and adding to our 147 schools.
We are committed to making four Capital Investments

Recruit and Train 2012 Ambassadors for Jesus Christ under the age of 35 by 2012.

Increase provision in Church of England Secondary Schools in the Diocese by 2012 places by 2012.

Raise £2,012,000 for development in Africa by 2012.

Raise £2,012,000 to support the Home Mission Fund by 2012.
We are committed to generating the resources in finance and property to enable the church to respond adequately to the London Challenge.

We will maintain a balanced budget.

We will keep the Common Fund system under review to ensure fairness.

We will pursue a legacy strategy.

We will increase the level of teaching on discipleship to encourage more generous giving.

We will build the capacity of the Home Mission Fund.

We will pursue policies which develop our stock of buildings for the mission of the Church while also using surplus property to raise income for that mission.

We will follow policies of high maintenance for all our properties.
Our achievements to date

The London Challenge was first launched at a Sacred Synod in All Souls Langham Place in January 2002. In many ways the Diocese today is unrecognisable compared with the situation then. Specific challenges were set and the following audit reveals that much, though not all, has been achieved.

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 full range of courses has been made available to every parish.

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

Electoral Rolls stood at 47,500 in 1991. Today they stand at 69,000.


Achieved. Until the mid nineties the stipends and pensions of the clergy were heavily subsidised from the national historic asset base administered by the Church Commissioners.


Achieved.

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

The training audit was translated into the Training Review 2006.

6. Develop ministry leadership teams in 50% of parishes by 2006.

Adopted in the Kensington and Willesden Areas.

7. Establish the St Ethelburga Centre for Reconciliation and Peace by 2003 the tenth anniversary of the IRA bomb in Bishopsgate.

Achieved.


Of the 350 London men and women ordained in the past five years less than 25 have been from ethnic minority communities. There is an urgent need to ensure that the leadership of the Diocese reflects the ethnic diversity of our membership. Those responsible for vocations no longer consider that this objective is best served through a separate vocations centre for ethnic minorities but progress in this area is a major priority.


Progress has been made in achieving this objective. Currently the Diocese is actively planning for four new secondary schools


Achieved.

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

Achieved by retaining 446 clergy supported by the Common Fund and an additional fifty locally supported. There are also 150 non stipendiary ministers and 300 honorary curates with permission to officiate.
**The Diocese of London**

The Diocese covers 277 square miles and 17 boroughs of Greater London north of the Thames with 1.6 million homes, from Staines in the West to the Isle of Dogs in the east and as far north as Enfield.

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<th><strong>3.6 million</strong></th>
<th><strong>479</strong></th>
<th><strong>69,000</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>people</td>
<td>churches</td>
<td>adults listed as members on Church electoral rolls</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>87</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>147</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>parishes in highly deprived areas</td>
<td>people preparing for ordination</td>
<td>Church Schools</td>
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<td><strong>46,961</strong></td>
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<td>pupils</td>
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150 social responsibility projects incorporating work with:
- children and young people
- asylum seekers
- people with mental and physical disabilities
- the elderly

Countless community-based activities such as:
- mother and toddler groups
- youth clubs
- Guides and Scouts

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**What next...**

The DVD within contains a short film introducing London Challenge 2012, featuring a number of stories from around the Diocese.

The film and an electronic copy of this brochure are also available to download from [www.londonchallenge2012.org.uk](http://www.londonchallenge2012.org.uk)

The website also features:
- the latest news on London Challenge 2012
- updates on progress towards the Commitments
- opportunities for parishes to share news of their own London Challenge initiatives