

# Church & Society News

December 2008

## Welcome Mike!

New church and community development officer appointed



Mike France joined us as the new Church and Community Development Officer back in July. He brings with him a wealth of experience gained from almost four decades in the voluntary and community sectors. Through his work, Mike aims to assist parishes across the Diocese in order to help them develop and flourish.

“I would like to introduce myself as the new member of the Church and Society team. My name is Mike France and together with my colleagues Dian Leppington, Sue Heil and Alison Peacock, I am here to support parishes who want to work more effectively within their local communities.

We offer a range of services including;

- Support on how to plan for the future,
- Data on the make-up of your parish with background statistics,
- Training on project development and fundraising,
- Focused support on particular issues, e.g. the use of buildings such as

“I have already been really impressed with the quality of work taking place at local level— long may it continue!”

church halls.

My background is based in 40 years in the voluntary and community sectors. Starting in play and youth work, I moved into management in the Citizen’s Advice Bureau (CAB) service in London and Swindon. This was followed by 6 years in a grant making trust based within a private company managing programmes in the north of England and Northern Ireland.

I relocated to my native northwest (I originate from Bolton) in 1997 and, after two years with CAB in a regional capacity, managed an organisation in Bury which provided support to the local voluntary sector. I also ran an organisation in Bury which provided support to the local voluntary sector and ran a variety of regeneration programmes.

The theory is that these experiences can add value to the skills and knowledge of my colleagues in Church House and those working out in the parishes. I have already been really impressed by the range and quality of work taking place at local level— long may it continue!

It is also increasingly important to be mindful of what other groups in the voluntary, statutory and faith sector are doing to make a positive difference in our communities and where there might be

opportunities for joint working in finding solutions to challenging social issues. Part of my role will be to keep you posted on key developments that impact on your work locally.

So! If you would welcome help with undertaking a Parish Audit (planning your future), want to talk through an idea for a new development or where to get funding for it, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I am very happy to come and meet with yourself and colleagues, chat things through over the phone, or exchange emails.”

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Mike France

### Contact Mike on

0161 828 1475, or email  
mikefrance@manchester.anglican.org

*Are you committed to community development? A vacancy has opened in the Diocese for a Community Development worker, for more details see page 2.*

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**By the Parish Resources Team**

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The Parish Resources Team offers a range of sessions designed to help parishes become familiar with the variety of funding sources available, get to grips with Grantnet (an online grants database to which the Diocese subscribes and a really helpful tool in looking for funding,) and to discuss their project ideas.

Training has proved fruitful this year with parishes across the Diocese securing a grand total of £784,029 in bids to external funding sources in the first ten months of 2008. And this figure doesn't even include English Heritage grants or funds that we have not yet been informed of!

We would like all parishes to enhance their chances of successful fundraising and welcome and encourage anyone from a parish with an interest in fundraising to attend the sessions listed opposite.

We operate a three-part training programme aimed at helping parishes put together a successful funding bid and also one-to-one funding advice sessions throughout the year. It's all completely free and very accessible; so give us a call to see what we can do for your parish!

**Grants and Funding Training Dates and Times**

All three steps need to be completed to gain a full picture of the funding process. All sessions take place in the Training Suite, 4th Floor, Church House.

**Morning Sessions 9.30-1pm**

**Afternoon Sessions 2-4.30pm**



# 3 steps to a successful parish funding bid

**Free and accessible grants and funding training available**

**Step 1 Introduction to Fundraising and Grantnet**

Advice on preparing a grant application and using Grantnet.

**13th Jan (am), 28th April (am), 4th June (pm)**

**Step 2 Getting Your Project Off the Ground**

Following Grantnet training, this session will help people carry out a Parish Audit and set up a project which will involve the local community.

**17th Feb (pm), 11 May (am), 16th June (pm)**

**Step 3 Making a Good Application (Hints & Tips)**

Feedback and support for groups who have already drafted an application

**25th March (am)**

**Funding Advice Sessions**

Alongside the training sessions, Dian Leppington, the Parish Resources Advisor, also offers 50 minute sessions for individual parishes seeking advice on funding issues.

**15th Jan, 3rd March, 23rd April, 18th June**— various times from 9.30am 2.45pm

**To book your place contact Helen Falconer**

Phone 0161 828 1412 or email [HelenFalconer@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:HelenFalconer@manchester.anglican.org)

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# Committed to community development?

The parish of St Mark w. Christ Church, Glodwick (Oldham) wishes to appoint a **Development Worker**.

The parish has obtained funding to set up a community hub and learning centre based in St Mark's House. This is an exciting opportunity for someone to establish the project and develop it in conjunction with the parish and partners in the local community.

**Key Details of Post**

- 3 year contract initially,
- 28 hrs per week,

- Actual Salary £19,000, plus non-contributory pension of 10%.

**For an application pack (No CVs please) contact**

Simon Ambrose

**Phone** 0161 828 1410

**Email**

[sambrose@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:sambrose@manchester.anglican.org)

**Closing Date** Friday 9th January 2009

**Interviews to be held**

Tuesday 20th January 2009

**We would like to wish those reading a joyful & peaceful Christmas & a very happy New Year**



# Mapping the covenant

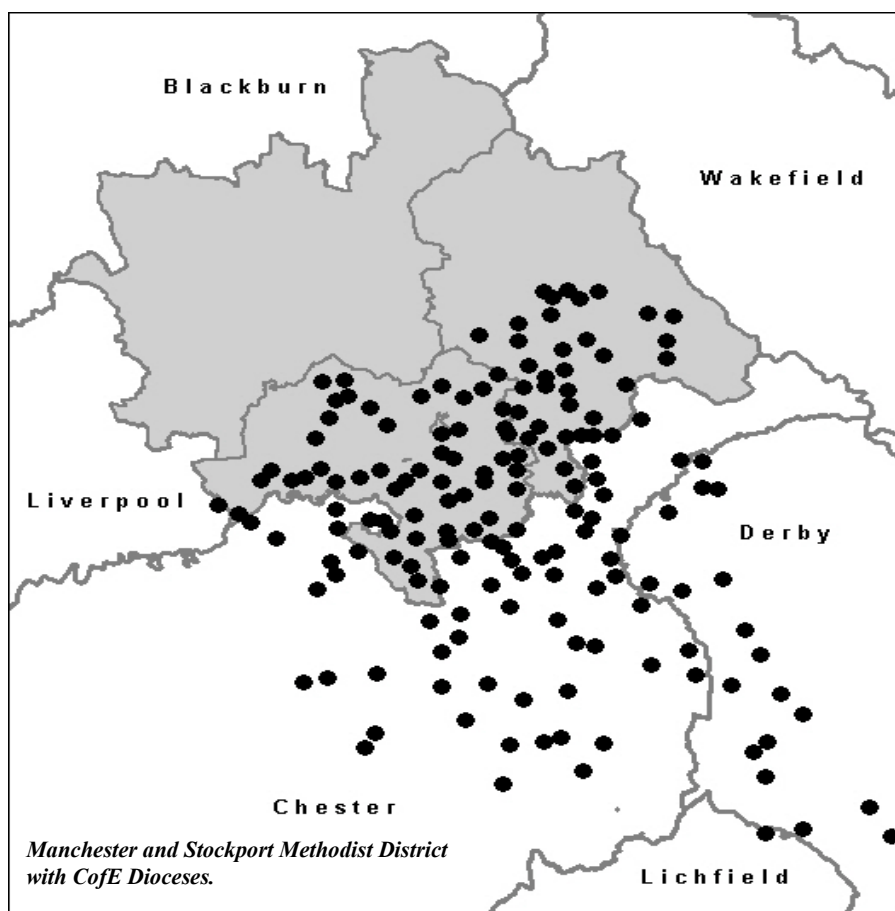
## Developing ecumenical partnerships

Alison Peacock, Mission Planning Officer

Five years ago, Manchester Diocesan Synod approved the Anglican Methodist Covenant. This included a commitment from both churches *“to realise more deeply our common life and mission...taking steps to bring about closer collaboration in all areas of witness and service in our needy world.”*

A survey of circuits and churches in the Manchester and Stockport Methodist District, one of two Methodist Districts within Manchester Diocese, offers a practical example of collaboration in mission and ministry. It addressed a comprehensive range of topics including mission and worship, staffing, finance and property and ecumenism.

Response rates were encouraging— 92% of circuit questionnaires and 83% of church questionnaires were returned. In order to process the quantities of data gathered through this exercise, in Summer 2007, District representatives approached the Church and Society Department for assistance. Through a series of meetings between District and Church and Society staff, priorities and specific outputs were identified. Work then progressed in three overlapping phases:



“A great tool to help us work out our way forward within our churches and the communities we serve.”

Helen Boardman, Manchester and Stockport District Development Enabler

- Using the diocesan mapping software, **Phase 1** began with plotting all 167 churches in the Manchester and Stockport District, from Royton in the North to the Derbyshire Dales in the South. The resulting pin map (see insert ) made it possible to produce circuit profiles based on select area characteristics including deprivation, age, ethnicity and religion.
- **Phase 2** focused on analysis of the circuit questionnaires in order to identify those issues and circuits most in need of District support. Data input and analysis was undertaken by Church and Society staff, and summary tables and a report were produced for the District. Key findings

were presented to District Synod in April.

- In view of the number of church questionnaires, **Phase 3** required the assistance of a temporary worker, David Heil, funded by the District but based within the Church and Society Department. In just four weeks, David completed all the data entry. He also produced summaries, thematic and individual church data sheets and a user guide.

By the beginning of November 2008, the resources created within each phase of the project had been passed to District staff. It is hoped that the various maps, reports, profiles, tables and summaries will now be used to assist the development of mission

plans relevant to the different contexts of circuits and churches across the District.

There are also benefits for Manchester Diocese. We have an improved map of Methodist churches, so creating a resource that can be used to assist in other collaborative exercises. We also have a better understanding of their priorities, resources and needs. Finally, the project has fostered connections between diocesan and District staff, providing a basis for joint working on areas of common concern.

Digital map from ‘Dotted Eyes’ © Crown Copyright Ordnance Survey Licence No. 100002215

# Towards greener steeples

## Introducing the work of the Environment Task Group

The Environment Task Group (ETG) meets six times a year and is one of eight task groups which reports to the Church and Society Committee. The ETG seeks to affirm and develop a Diocesan voice on environmental matters through raising awareness of environmental issues, ensuring that sustainability is a key factor in all Diocesan planning and promoting partnerships and links with other environmental agencies (from the voluntary, private, public and faith-based sectors).

Christian stewardship for creation is an essential component of Church environmental policy and as such a particular concern for the ETG is the potential catastrophic effect of climate change. On a more local scale, the remit of the group also includes ensuring that the Diocese implements and maintains measures to reduce its carbon footprint. The group currently has four members who all have a specific interest in environmental issues and meetings are also attended by Martin Miller, Director of the Church and Society Department.

So far this year the ETG has been extremely active in a range of areas. In July, the group ventured to Merseyside to observe the Liverpool Diocesan environmental policy. Much inspiration and enthusiasm was gained from the trip and the report which followed highlighted in particular the visits the group made to 'Faiths4Change' projects in the Norris Green area of the city.

The Faiths4Change group is a regional organisation which works with faith groups to enable community-based projects and places a particular emphasis on environmental initiatives. The group came away with many ideas after seeing some promising projects including a working garden set up in the grounds of a church for schools and local groups to grow vegetables, flowers and fruit trees and also an abandoned parsonage which had been turned into a very successful community centre.

Liverpool is currently one of only three Church of England Dioceses that has established an environmental policy and has permitted Manchester to draw inspiration from this and develop one of our own. The ETG has continued its connections with Faiths4Change and has been to observe the ongoing work of the



*Flowers in full bloom at one of the Faith4Change projects in Norris Green, Liverpool. Insert: A parishioner shows Revd John Hughes (Chair of the ETG) around the community garden created in the grounds of a church.*

Manchester branch which is based at the St John's Centre in Old Trafford, within the parish of St John the Evangelist.

The group also aims to ensure a Diocesan presence at local and regional environmental events. One such event was the 'Operation Noah' conference on faith communities and climate change which took place in Bolton earlier this year. Martin Miller gave a presentation on 'The Science of Climate Change' at the conference, which was attended by local MPs and representatives from faith groups, the content of which emphasised the alarming effects a drastic change in

logistically viable. Back in April, the Diocese commissioned a series of carbon output audits to be carried out on the Cathedral and four churches which resulted in the 'Greening the Spires' report. The report has recommended a number of manageable steps towards reducing the carbon footprint of your church such as switching to energy efficient light bulbs and replacing boilers.

Like the planet as a whole, the Diocese of Manchester is just beginning to grasp the enormity of the current environmental situation and the challenges that lie ahead.

The ETG hopes that by beginning to

**“There is often a lot of passion for environmental matters present within churches.”**

climate would cause in the near future.

In recent months, Martin has also been very involved in drawing up a Diocesan response to the proposed Transport Innovation Fund in Greater Manchester.

The ETG is very much aware that there is often a lot of passion for environmental matters present within churches and in the future the group hopes to harness this and provide practical support for churches willing to become more environmentally friendly. Already work is being done to help churches become greener in ways which are both economically and

take small steps towards increasing levels of involvement both in local initiatives and discussions of global environmental affairs, it will help churches to become better prepared for a greener future.

### **For more information**

For more information on the Environment Task Group, email Martin Miller on [martinmiller@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:martinmiller@manchester.anglican.org)