

Church responds to recession

By Martin Miller

On the first day that Britain officially went into recession, Bishop Nigel hosted a meeting of senior representatives from local authorities across Greater Manchester, to discuss the economic downturn. The Bishop and representatives from Rochdale, Stockport, Wigan, Manchester, Salford and Bury, discussed the impact of the recession on local communities and how the Church (and other faith communities) can help.

There was agreement that the Church of England was well placed to work in partnership with Local Authorities. A number of practical steps were suggested including the use of local churches and their halls as drop-in centres for essential services such as debt counselling.

The council representatives said that this recession was different from previous experience and there is a great deal of

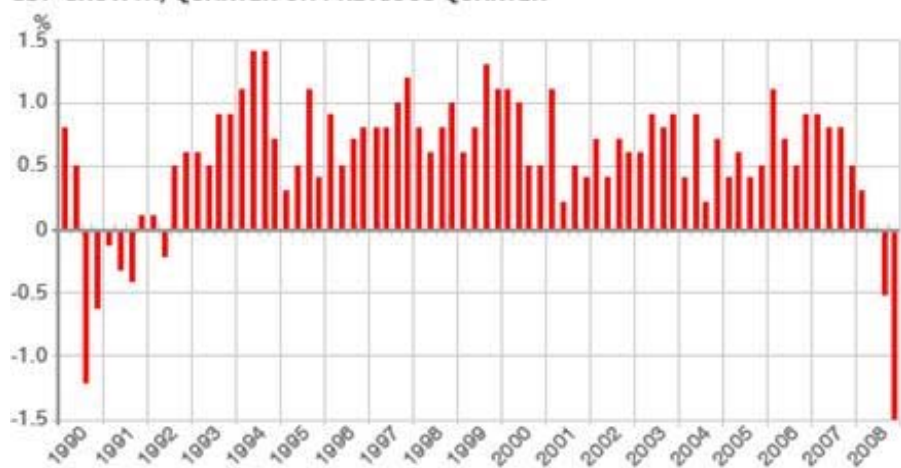
“The Church has a presence in every neighbourhood and community and we can be a channel to those people other agencies find hard to reach...”

Bishop Nigel

uncertainty about how it will impact on local communities in different parts of Greater Manchester. They warmly welcomed this initiative and ongoing discussions will explore what further practical help the Church can offer.

Following the meeting, Bishop Nigel said; “Many people turn to the Church for help in times of economic hardship and we want to respond to their needs as effectively as possible. The Church has a presence in every neighbourhood and community and we can be a channel to

GDP GROWTH, QUARTER ON PREVIOUS QUARTER



There was zero growth in Q2 2008

SOURCE: ONS

those people other agencies find hard to reach. This gives us the opportunity, working in partnership with local councils and others, to serve those communities as they face difficult times.”

mortgage advice etc.) of the statutory and voluntary sectors. Our Churches will be able to ‘signpost’ people to these services. Discussions are underway with the City of Manchester who would like to link local church structures with the city’s area regeneration managers and ward coordinators. Further discussions will take place with the other boroughs within the Diocese to help tailor a local response.

One very practical response is the provision of Small Parish Mission Fund grants for recession related activity (for more details, see page 2). This has already been considered and agreed as a strategy by the Grants Panel.

The Department will make more information available as it is produced.

For further information, please contact Martin Miller, Diocesan Director of Church and Society on 0161 828 1409 or email martinmiller@manchester.anglican.org

Bishop Nigel has asked the Church and Society Department to help promote a practical response to the economic situation at both local and strategic levels. The staff team met to consider how we monitor the impact of this recession and resource parishes, the ‘frontline’, to respond within their local context.

The Department has already contributed to a Recession Working Party for Rochdale Borough. We will be asking our local churches to publicise the relevant services (careers and training guidance,

Grants and funding news

“In the months ahead it will mean in our own country asking repeatedly what is asked of us locally to care for those who bear the heaviest burdens in the wake of our economic crisis—without waiting for the magical solution, let alone the return of good times...”

Archbishop of Canterbury, Christmas Sermon

Cash for a change

By the Parish Resources Team
and Susie Mapledoram, Diocesan
Youth Officer

The Diocesan Grants Panel has agreed that Small Parish Mission Fund (SPMF) grants of up to £500 can be awarded to parishes carrying out new work to respond to the current economic climate by offering help and support to people who are unemployed or who are working with issues around debt.

Applications for these grants are considered on a monthly basis and need to be with us by the end of each month. A decision is usually reached within two weeks.

There are lots of links and suggestions on the Church of England website—www.cofe.anglican.org/debt

The grants are not prescriptive but here are some ideas for work that could be done:

- Open the church/warm the community room once a week for people to; light a candle, have a cuppa or a bowl of soup and a chance to tell their stories. Church members who are affected

could perhaps set this up.

- Run some activities that promote well-being and self esteem which can be connected to a support group.
- Get a volunteer to co-ordinate support and transport for people looking for work.
- Provide a computer with internet access and a phone and have someone available with some knowledge to help people to search for jobs or complete application forms.
- Partner with others to provide some money advice/debt counselling.
- Consider developing a Food Bank or community food project with others—see the Trussell Trust website; www.trusselltrust.org
- Provide some volunteer opportunities which would help people gain experience.
- Set up a Lenten solidarity group.

Deadlines for applications

1) Small Parish Mission Fund

The deadline for SPMF grant applications is the end of each month.

2) General

Applications for all diocesan grants to reach the Grants Panel by **Tues 14th April**.

3) Church and Community Fund

The deadline for applications to the Church and Community Fund is **Weds 22nd April**

Application forms are available in the Grants Handbook on the Diocesan website www.manchester.anglican.org/church-society/grants

If you would like further information about these grants, please contact Sue Heil on 0161 828 1445 or email sueheil@manchester.anglican.org

Attention Bolton parishes!

Bolton CVS have alerted us to some exciting funding opportunities for voluntary and community groups operating within the Bolton local authority area.

1. Creating Cleaner Greener Communities

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for groups improving their local environment.

Eligible projects must be visible to the public and involve the local community.

Priority will be given to projects in disadvantaged areas. For more information, email Kairen Smith at Bolton CVS kairen@boltoncvcs.org.uk

2. Breaks for carers

Do you know of any groups specifically supporting carers?

Grants of up to £750 are available from Bolton Council's Adult Services Department to allow carers to have a short break eg a theatre trip, pampering session

or meal out.

These grants form part of the Bolton Carers Strategy and the next round of applications will be opening on Mon 6th April and closing on Mon 18th May.

Further information and applications can be found at www.boltoncvcs.org.uk, or by phoning 01204 546 010

GMCVO news

The following, taken from the latest Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) newsletter may be of interest to parishes across the Diocese.

1. New advice service for migrant workers

The Migrant Worker's Employment Rights Advice Service is a new service aimed at enabling migrant workers and those who support them to have access to free, confidential specialist employment rights advice.

You can contact the service at the Greater Manchester Pay and Employment Rights Advice Service (GMPERAS) on 0161 833 1772

2. Changes to the Awards for All small grants scheme

Changes to the Awards for All England small grants scheme (currently a joint Lottery grants programme) will mean that each lottery distributor will now run their own small grants schemes. From 1st April:

- **Big Lottery Fund** will be awarding grants of £300-£10,000 to local communities.
- **Sport England** will provide small grants for sports ranging from £300-£10,000.
- **Arts Council England** will award grants of between £1000-£100,000 through their existing 'Grants for the Arts' programme.
- **Heritage Lottery Fund** will be providing grants through their existing 'Your Heritage' (£3,000-£50,000) and 'Young Roots' (£3,000-£25,000) schemes.

3. Centre for Social Justice awards 2009

A £50,000 prize is up for grabs for small grass roots charities and voluntary groups tackling poverty in their local areas.

4. Wider Access for Grassroots Grants

Voluntary and community organisations with annual incomes of up to £30,000 are now eligible to bid for grants of between £250-£5,000 from the Government's Grassroots Grants scheme. The grants run

over a three year period and groups can apply for the maximum to be spread across this timescale. The next Grassroot application round will open on Mon 20th April and closes on Mon 1st June.

Small grants and endowment match schemes are both available.

5. Donated Goods from In Kind Direct

In Kind Direct redistributes brand new goods which have been donated from companies to the charity and not-for-profit sector.

To participate, voluntary and community groups need to join In Kind's network and pay a handling charge for each pack of goods ordered.

Goods are ordered through an online catalogue and can be used both for the running of a group (office supplies etc) or for redistributing to beneficiaries (toys, clothing, household appliances etc.)

For more information about any of the above, please visit the GMCVO website www.gmcvo.org.uk and take a look at their Feb 2009 newsletter.

Fair trade in an unfair world

All are welcome to attend a day exploring the challenges of fair trade organised by Christians Aware Manchester

**Saturday 4th April 2009
(10.15-4pm)**

**Denton Methodist Church
Hyde Road, Denton, Manchester,
M34 3AQ (opposite Morrisons' supermarket)**

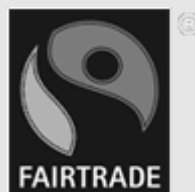
The day will include talks from speakers such as:

- Jeremy Lefroy (African Speciality Products): "Does Fairtrade Work?"
- Peter Collins (Traidcraft): "The Challenge of the Extra Mile"
- Leonie Nimmo (Olive Coop, Manchester): "Fair trade in an unfair world: the Case of Palestine"
- David Greenwood-Haigh and Alistair Menzies (Divine Chocolate): "The Divine Story: The First Ten Years"

Prices for the day vary and include refreshments and a buffet lunch, the day will close with an act of worship. There will also be the opportunity to purchase fair trade products at stalls on the day. (Attendance by prior booking only.)

For further information and booking forms

Contact Gerard Crawshaw
email gerardcrawshaw@hotmail.com or
phone 07821359321



Help tomorrow take shape

The 2011 Census and Manchester Diocese

“The Office for National Statistics estimates that an error of 1,000 people results in a misallocation of around £500,000 for each local authority each year.”

By Alison Peacock

A White Paper proposing a Census of Population in England and Wales on Sunday 27th March 2011 was presented to Parliament in December 2008. This article summarises the main priorities and proposals, and suggests a role for Manchester Diocese in helping those responsible for ensuring an accurate count to “get it right first time”.

• **Priorities and strategies**

Getting the count right is a priority for any Census, but particularly in view of under-enumeration in 2001. Manchester, where an estimated 30,000 people were missed, found government grants reduced. This resulted in pressure on budgets, threats to services and an address matching exercise by the City Council to correct the error.

Strategies to ensure a more accurate count in 2011 include working closely with local authorities to improve address registers and community liaison. There will be more options for the delivery and return of census forms: 95% will be delivered by post, and there will be an option to complete online. Meanwhile, field staff will be concentrated in “hard to enumerate” areas such as those with diverse, changing populations, new housing developments, gated communities and multiple deprivation.

• **Topics and questions**

Following a series of public consultations, to which Church and Society staff contributed, 7 topics for households and 27 for household residents are proposed. New questions are:

- National identity

- Citizenship (based on passports held)
- Language (both main language and facility with English)
- Second residences (including purpose)
- Migration (month and year of entry into the UK and proposed length of stay)
- Number of bedrooms (an indicator of overcrowding)
- Type of central heating (an indicator of energy use)

Some questions included in 2001 have been modified to include new response categories:

- Marital status (includes civil

“We want the 2011 Census to be right first time.”

National Census Coordinator, Manchester City Council

partnerships)

- Ethnicity (includes ‘Arab’ and ‘Gypsy or Irish Traveller’)

A question on religion, introduced in 2001, will also be included. Despite pressure to include sub-categories of the major religions, minority religions and non-religious belief, the format of the question is unchanged. It also retains its voluntary status.

• **A role for the Diocese?**

Despite the limitations of the undercount, the 2001 Census has proved an invaluable tool for mission planning in Manchester Diocese. Census data has increased understanding of the composition of the Diocese and its diverse parishes. It has been used to identify particular need, and is still used to

resource practical responses.

Over and above organisational interests in accurate data in 2011, the Diocese is committed to working in partnership with local authorities on issues of common concern. Given the implications for resource allocation, what practical steps can we take to help those tasked with ensuring an accurate count in 2011? For example:

- Using our network of parishes to promote awareness of the 2011 Census and its importance for our communities in the run up to Census Day.
- Building on the connections fostered

between churches and communities to reduce mistrust (especially among “hard to reach” groups)

- Working alongside field staff to help people struggling to complete or return their census forms.

If you have any suggestions on how we can work with relevant partners to secure accurate information and resources for the communities we also seek to serve, the Church and Society Department will be pleased to hear from you.

Further information on the 2011 Census is available in a Church and Society Briefing Paper, please email apeacock@manchester.anglican.org.

The White Paper, *‘Helping to Shape Tomorrow: The 2011 Census of Population and Housing in England and Wales’* may be downloaded from the census pages of the website of the Office for National Statistics, www.statistics.gov.uk

How the 2001 Census was brought to life in Glodwick

The parish of St Mark w. Christ Church, Glodwick, at the epicentre of the Oldham riots, found that the 2001 Census revealed a lack of qualifications among the population of working age.

This data supported a successful bid in 2008 to Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities to develop a Victorian house as a focus for community outreach through learning opportunities. The amount awarded was £42, 230 and work with unemployed local people is now up and running.