



Diocese of Bristol | Review 2008

Do I really want
to go here??





What have I done with what God has entrusted me with? It's a question I frequently ask myself. Have I made the most of my energy, my abilities (such as they are), my relationships, my money, home and possessions to serve others and serve God? It's a challenge for all of us personally and in our community life. It's a challenge for this Diocese.

As I travel around this Diocese and spend time with the people who make it up, I see just some of the many examples of individuals and church communities making the most of what they have been entrusted with to make a difference.

The aim of this leaflet is to show just a few of those examples in 2008. It also shows how we have used the money that has been entrusted to us in this Diocese to help make the Kingdom of God a reality in our part of the world.

'Releasing the energy' is the theme of our Diocesan Strategy for 2010-2015. Releasing the energy of the money entrusted to us is part of that. I am acutely aware that it is the generosity of followers of Christ in this Diocese that enables us to do much of what we do. As we reflect on last year and look forward to the years ahead, let us do all we can to make the most of what we have been given.

+Mike
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"We ran two weeks of Schools work; a Christmas experience for years 3 and 4, and an Easter Experience for year 6. Both of the weeks were a huge success and in total we had over 400 school children visit the church. The feedback from the schools was so encouraging, that we ran the Easter Experience for two weeks this year."

A Rogation Sunday service was broadcast on the BBC's 'The One Show' as tiny Bremilham church is the smallest in regular use in England

In the Woodbridge Group a new system of training rural clergy was started in partnership with Trinity College, Bristol

"Our church has engaged with parents in their thirties with young children in new and successful ways by (1) extending the 'family friendly' area of the church from a corner to one whole aisle of the church. Young families now feel welcomed into the body of the church - not just to a corner of it. (2) Starting a bi-monthly Curry Club for Dads at a local restaurant. (3) Starting a monthly Night Out for women of all ages. Attendance and relationships are building tremendously as a result."

Wow!! Something's really happening.



"From delicious cream teas at the Crudwell Strawberry Festival to HarFest (a wide ranging music and arts festival) and the Boules weekend at Sherston our churches have been engaged in the local community"

Malmesbury Abbey was given over to become a skateboard park for a week during the school holidays

An ancient 15th century Tithe Barn has been returned to church and community use after many centuries.

The recently restored 'Doomboard' at Dauntsey was featured in the BBC History Magazine

"The May '08 South Bristol Deanery Seeker Services went down really well. This has led to growth in many of the four areas identified by the Diocese as our goals both at St Peter's and in the Deanery. St Peter's now run their own regular Seeker Services and the Deanery continues to put on Seeker Services for the whole area"



I suppose you want to know what we've been up to, eh?



Oliver Home | Looking to the future

2008 saw the development of 'Releasing the Energy', the Diocesan Strategy for 2010-2015. A dedicated team worked long and hard on developing a plan which would face the reality of the situation we find ourselves in as the Church in the 21st century - both overcoming the challenges and making the most of the opportunities.

The Strategy sets the clear direction for the Diocese in the years ahead with an ongoing commitment to the Growth Programme. It also gives a focus to the core support the Diocese provides in the form of leadership development. This aims to release more people in our church communities into ministry and leadership and to develop those already involved.

'Releasing the Energy' not only reshapes what we do, but also how we do it. More decision-making will be made at deanery level with specialist teams supporting the local delivery of the Strategy. The approach to how money is raised from parishes to support the overall ministry of the Diocese is also being shaken up. All for the purposes of releasing the energy of the whole people of God to help bring in the Kingdom of God.

Sam Rushton | The role of Adviser for Licensed Ministry

In recognition of the Diocese' desire to 'Release the Energy' of all Christians and to encourage collaboration between all forms of ministry and in all of our processes, the responsibility for developing vocation, discernment and selection of our authorised ministries has now been vested in one role, that of Adviser for Licensed Ministry. This enables us to maximise the impact of the investment we make in encouraging all the people of God in the Diocese to fulfil their calling.

One of the greatest joys of doing this job is that the ALM gets to see at first hand the range of people who God is calling to make a difference in his church and we glimpse beyond their stories a picture of the kind of plans God has in store for us all – and those plans are good and exciting!

Derek Chedzey | Mission in New Housing Areas

An exciting proposal to base church and community growth around the schools has attracted interest and support from the Church Commissioners who are putting £500,000 into the scheme. Instead of putting our money into buildings, it's going into people and the growth of the community will be supported by community and youth workers based at the church schools. Watch this space!

George Rendell | Indications of growth

There were a growing number of parishes who took time during the year to talk about how the church is going and what should be happening that is not. In a number this has resulted in them seeking help to develop the way the PCC works or to move towards the formation of a leadership team. The Growing Leaders course (CPAS) attracted 38 LLMs who completed the course run by the diocese and many more took part in courses run by their own parishes. The number of people attending locally provided courses (for example becoming lay pastoral assistants) rose again. The number of people seeking advice on vocations increased again last year, and with the launch of the OLM scheme in the autumn the number is expected to rise further in 2009, with one new enquiry every week.

Jackie Waters-Dewhurst | Department for Children and Young People

It's been a busy and productive year for the Department for Children and Young People (formerly the Education Department). Our course programme has resulted in staff from 44 different schools receiving training from us – some attending several courses. The success of this programme is largely due to the hard work of Katy Staples (Schools Adviser) and Liz Waslin (Administrative Assistant).

Dan Jones has been working with the Diocese of Bath and Wells to produce a new training package for volunteers working with children and young people. It's called The Key, and Dan is already booked in to a number of parishes to deliver what is going to be an invaluable resource. Any parish that's interested needs to get in touch with Dan ASAP! We now also have our own website www.candyp.org with resources, information and ideas for schools and parishes, so it's never been easier to keep in touch! The Resource Centre continues to flourish and is a real hidden treasure - why not come and have a look around next time you're visiting Bristol (see our website for directions; www.candyp.org).



Taaaa!!

2008 Finance | Overview

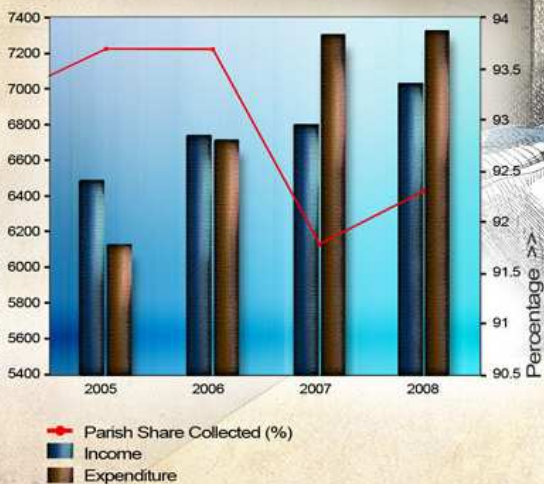
The General Fund of the Diocese is managed through its working budget. For 2008, a break even-budget was agreed. The actual result, before the profits on disposals and revaluations of assets, was a deficit of £106,000.

£425,000 shortfall in Share receipts;
 £107,000 overspend against budget by Housing & Glebe, principally the cost of repairing the stock of houses occupied by clergy and others;
 £51,000 overspend supporting married candidates working towards ordination; this overspend will be adjusted through a cross-diocesan pooling system.

balanced by

£274,000 savings on clergy & parochial staff, resulting from vacancies;
 £27,000 net savings made across all other expenditure heads;
 £70,000 additional income raised through letting vacant parochial housing;
 £33,000 additional income, grants from National Church;
 £73,000 more non share income than budgeted comprising some additional grants and more income from investments and glebe.

The Diocese has many other funds, most of which (in value terms) are endowment funds and whose capital cannot be spent, although the income can be spent by the General Fund. The graph below reflects only the General Fund.



Hey; this is all a bit heavy!

What, we can't afford fairy cakes?



- Parish Share
- National Church institutions
- Other donations & grants
- Parsonage rental income
- Investment income
- Local fee income
- Grants & course fees

2008 Finance | Total Income £8.3 million

The majority of the Diocese's income comes from parishes through Share. 139 of 181 Parishes or Churches gave in full the amount requested of them in 2008, but with an overall collection rate of 92.3%, a slight increase on 2007's 91.8%. The Diocese has a large portfolio of investments and collects cash from short-term leasing (when houses are vacant for a while), and wedding and funeral fees to go towards the stipends of ministers. We are also supported by generous grants from local trusts.



- Ministry in parishes
- Support & Training
- ISR
- Education
- Higher Education
- Other
- Governance costs
- Generating Funds
- National Church
- Grants

2008 Finance | Total Expenditure £8.9 million

The majority of our expenditure is to provide ministry in parishes. In addition to the stipends, pensions and National Insurance costs of the clergy, most are provided with housing, which has to be insured and maintained and Council Tax and Water Rates paid. Housing costs includes regular inspections, repairs and improvements.

We make an annual grant towards the costs of supporting the national church institutions, including ordination training and provision for the housing needs of some retired clergy. Support and training for clergy in all stages of their working life, from selection through and after ordination has been given by the Support & Training Team (Mission and Ministry Development, or 'MnM'). As with any organisation, there is a central administrative/governance function which is carried out at Church House. We do not account for the voluntary service given in time spent.

The costs of the Bishops and their staff are mostly met by the Church Commissioners, but some costs, together with those for Archdeacons and Area Deans, are met by the Diocese.

2008 Finance | Investments

The Diocese has not been immune from the turbulence in the financial markets, resulting in losses on the revaluation of its investments, which have been in part mitigated by realised gains on the sale of (mainly) properties no longer required. The total of these realised and unrealised movements showed a net loss of £2,423,000 (2007 - gain £1,998,000). Investments, however, are mostly held for the long term, and our investment managers are doing a great job in shielding us from the worst of the turbulence.

2008 Finance | Reserves

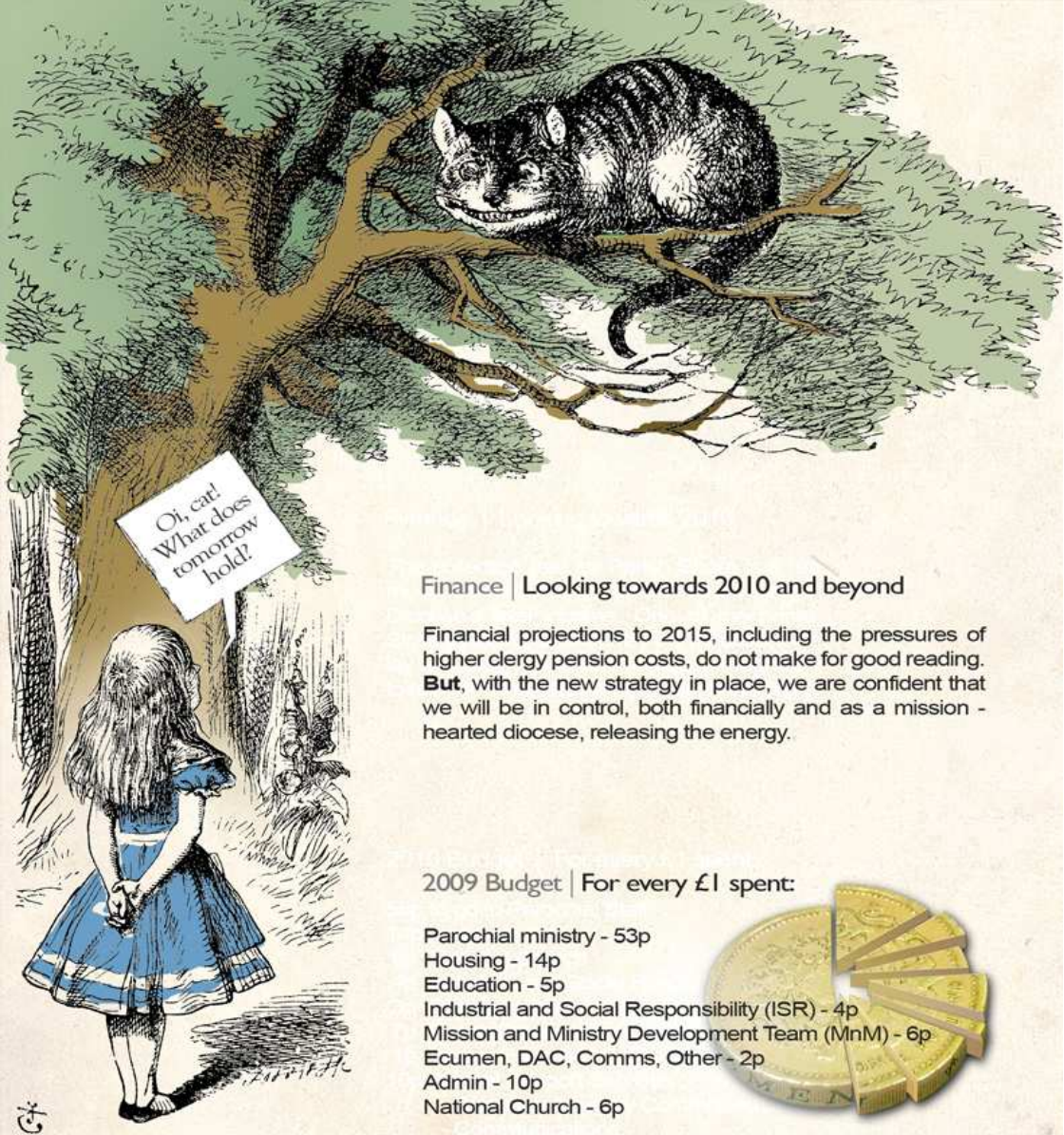
Our General Fund reserve could only support expenditure for 6 months, if all our income dried up overnight. With budgets getting ever tighter and investment income suffering, a new approach to financing ministry is both necessary and welcome.

As Bishop Mike said at the beginning of this leaflet, "It's a challenge", but it can be met by faithful, prayerful and committed discipleship.

SMALL PRINT:

These reports and accounts are not the statutory financial statements of The Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Limited. Statutory financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2008 were approved by the Board on 31 March 2009. A report by the Board's auditors under Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985, which was not qualified nor contained a statement under Section 237(2) or (3) of the Act, is attached to the statutory accounts. The statutory accounts will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies and to the Charity Commissioners. Copies of the statutory accounts may be obtained upon request to the Diocesan Secretary, Church House, 23 Great George Street, Bristol, BS1 5QZ.





Finance | Looking towards 2010 and beyond

Financial projections to 2015, including the pressures of higher clergy pension costs, do not make for good reading. **But**, with the new strategy in place, we are confident that we will be in control, both financially and as a mission - hearted diocese, releasing the energy.

2009 Budget | For every £1 spent:

Parochial ministry - 53p
 Housing - 14p
 Education - 5p
 Industrial and Social Responsibility (ISR) - 4p
 Mission and Ministry Development Team (MnM) - 6p
 Ecumen, DAC, Comms, Other - 2p
 Admin - 10p
 National Church - 6p



The Diocese's primary objective remains; to be the visible and ever-present face of the Church of England in this part of the country, and to work towards the Kingdom. That objective will be achieved by continuing to do what we do well and by having the courage to change those things which are not working at present.

