



Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

# 2011 Annual Review



# About the Diocese of Westminster

The Diocese of Westminster is one of the smallest dioceses in England and Wales in geographical area, but the largest in terms of Catholic population and priests. The diocesan boundaries include the London boroughs north of the River Thames, between the River Lea to the east, the Borough of Hillingdon to the west, the County of Hertfordshire to the north and the Borough of Spelthorne in Surrey.

Since the restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy in 1850, its bishop has often been a Cardinal. The Most Reverend Vincent Nichols is the eleventh Archbishop of Westminster, having been installed as Archbishop on 21 May 2009. In an increasingly cosmopolitan city, the Diocese includes a wide range of ethnic and cultural diversity amongst its Catholic population.

The Diocese of Westminster is also a Metropolitan See, having as members of its Province the Dioceses of Brentwood, Northampton, Nottingham and East Anglia. The governance of the Diocese is under the care of the Archbishop's Council, the members of which are the Archbishop, the Auxiliary Bishops, the Vicars General, the Archbishop's Private Secretary and the Financial Secretary.



## Diocese of Westminster

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## Reference and administrative information – Year to 31 December 2011

### Trustee

The trustees are incorporated as “Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee” (WRCDT), a company limited by guarantee. This company does not conduct any trade or business for its own account and has no assets or liabilities. Its sole purpose is to act as trustee of a number of trusts and funds of which the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust is the principal one.

The Directors of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee (herein referred to as trustees) are:

The Most Reverend Archbishop V Nichols

Rt Rev A Hopes

Rt Rev J Arnold

Rt Rev J Sherrington

Rt Rev Mgr J O’Boyle

Rt Rev Mgr T Egan

Lord D Brennan QC

Miss L Ferrar

Rt Hon R Kelly

Mr D Moseley

Mr C Kemball

### Financial Secretary

P Camoletto

### Chief Accountant

D Smy FCA

### Principal address

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Ambrosden Avenue

Westminster

London

SW1P 1QJ

### Charity registration number

233699

### Auditor

Buzzacott LLP

130 Wood Street

London

EC2V 6DL

### Principal investment managers

Sarasin & Partners LLP

Juxon House

100 St Paul’s Churchyard

London

EC4M 8BU

### Principal bankers

HSBC Bank plc

69 Pall Mall

London

SW1Y 5EY

### Charity solicitors

Stone King LLP

13 Queen’s Square

Bath

BA1 2HJ

### Insurers

The Catholic National Mutual Limited

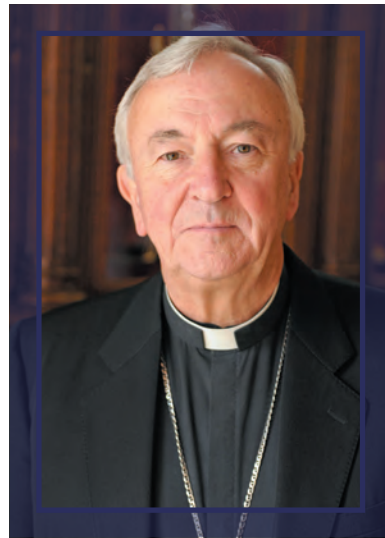
Westborne

The Grange

St Peter Port

Guernsey

# Introduction



**In his very first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict XVI said, “As a community, the Church must practise love. Love thus needs to be organised if it is to be an ordered service to the Community.”**

The teaching of Pope Benedict underlies much that is contained in this Annual Report. In it you will see how the coordinated action of parishes and priests has helped the most vulnerable in society. From providing shelter for the homeless, English classes for migrants, soup kitchens for the hungry to baptism for prisoners, God’s love has reached children, refugees, the disabled, the elderly, the lonely, the infirm, the homeless and the prisoner. Active faith and love has been transmitted from within the hearts of individuals, into the lives of the wider community.

The Report also shows how the structure and work of the central services of the Diocese support and enhance this work of charity by which we reach out to the most vulnerable. ‘Caritas’ is the name by which this work is drawn together and strengthened.

Throughout the period covered by this Report, the Church in this diocese has been responding to the inspiration and impetus given by Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to the United Kingdom in September 2010. This work continues today in our parishes and schools, in hospitals and prisons, in Allen Hall, our seminary, and in our care of so many who are in need.

I express my sincere thanks to all those who carry out the work reported in this document, all those who support it with their prayers and finance, and all those who have put together these annual accounts and this Report.

+ Vincent Nichols

The Most Reverend Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster

# Our Parishes



*“If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind.”*

*Philippians 2:1 -2*



## St Thomas More, Hackney, East London

*“Strengthening Community Connections”  
Working with the elderly, housebound and isolated*

Founded in 1973, St Thomas More’s Church, Manor House is set in a quiet street near Finsbury and Clissold Parks, the massive Woodberry Down housing estate and the West Reservoir now used for water sports.

Soon after his arrival in the parish in 2003, parish priest Fr Clive Lee began converting the bleak concrete space around the church into a beautiful garden with Stations of the Cross, a dovecote, fishpond and a nursery play area, which is very popular with the children.

The church, which has just been renovated, is an open prayerful space with several beautiful icons by award-winning artist Caroline Lees. There is also a statue of Our Lady of Aparecida, given by the Brazilian Chaplaincy who hold Masses there. The wooden crucifix over the altar was presented by the Missionaries of Africa who had strong links with the parish.

The parish has a lively Justice and Peace group. Each week eight volunteers do a weekly food run, collecting donated food from a shop and taking it to the nearby Dorothy Day house and night shelter. English language classes for migrants were set up three years ago by Hilary Joseph and Suzanne Warr.





Parishioners Barbara Kentish and Tricia Zipfel were responsible for setting up a 'Listening Campaign', a project facilitated by London Citizens, to strengthen community connections. "We want our community to be more than just coffee after Mass", Tricia said.

"We had six small groups of 40 parishioners which met to tell each other our stories. Then we had a session when we mapped all the issues. People discussed personal problems, we looked at issues in the neighbourhood and the wider community. As a result now we have begun more work with the elderly, housebound and isolated people." The exercise also led to a collaboration with two local Anglican churches on youth groups for 10-16 year olds.

Tricia added: "We are an incredibly diverse parish. We've been involved in Telco London Citizens for 15 years. We attend the assemblies but mostly we are working to strengthen and deepen our parish life and reach out to the wider community locally."

St Thomas More's has strong ecumenical relations with all the local churches. The parish is a member of the Finsbury Park Interfaith group. On Palm Sunday each year they gather with the Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed churches for an ecumenical service and procession at Finsbury Park. They also go on an annual pilgrimage together:

People in Manor House come from around the world, but in the Church they find a common home and in St Thomas More's there's a warm welcome. Parishioner Richard Solly said simply: "This is such a friendly parish. That's why I come here."

## St Mary Magdalen, Willesden Green, Northwest London

*"A means of grace" Church groups provide a sense of community*

**With over 1,050 parishioners as well as 40 active groups and 70 servers St Mary Magdalen in Willesden Green is a vibrant, active parish, home to a large youth group and hugely diverse ethnic community.**

In 2011 Fr Hugh MacKenzie, had been parish priest at Willesden Green for nine years, after four years as parish priest at St Mary's, Chelsea and spending time as a chaplain in Harrow, at St Dominic's Sixth Form College. His wealth of experience working with young people made Fr Hugh a perfect choice for an active parish looking to develop its youth work.

Fr Hugh said: "When I came here it was a committed parish, but the one area they were looking at developing was youth. We spoke to Bishop Alan Hopes and because of my background and my involvement with the Faith movement as well as my time as sixth form chaplain they thought I could help."

The parishioners were keen to provide groups for youth and in one of their planned giving drives they raised £20,000 which enabled the parish to employ a youth worker.

Another initiative is a post confirmation group that meets at 5pm on Saturdays, sometimes arriving earlier to do charitable work and visit the sick and housebound. The group is growing, with 16 members regularly staying late into the evening.

The younger parishioners aren't forgotten either. There is a group for yr 7/8 which is "going well" with 17 members that meets on Fridays in term-time. There is also a yr 5/6 club that's "extremely popular", with a reserve list due to the demand for places. "The basis of all youth work is the two primary schools nearby. There are a lot of young people associated with the community," adds Fr Hugh.

While Willesden Green has a vibrant youth scene they also have a variety of groups other parishioners can join. The range of courses and groups are a "means of grace", says Fr Hugh. In total the parish has a staggering 40 active groups. They range from Echoes to Rosary groups, as well as courses for those wanting to find out more about Catholicism. The parish also has 68 altar servers, and 34 members of the Union of Catholic Mothers which has been part of the parish since 1957.

Brent is one of the most multi-cultural boroughs in London, and Willesden Green is the most multicultural part of Brent, says Fr Hugh. The Church of St Mary Magdalen is surrounded by reminders of how culturally rich the area is, with The Islamic College, the famous Shree Swaminarayan Hindu temple, and a tiny Jewish synagogue nearby.

The area has changed vastly over the last few years, says Fr Hugh. "In the last fifteen years the Irish have returned home and have been replaced by people from the Indian subcontinent." The parish now has a Sinhalese ethnic chaplaincy Mass once a month celebrated by Fr Rohitha Rodrigo, the Sinhalese chaplain who lives in the priest's house with Fr Hugh.

Despite the variety of cultures, Fr Hugh notes that there is a clear sense of community at Willesden Green. "The sense of community is helped by regular events, including an annual dinner dance. Previously run by the Knights of St Columba, the parish took the dance on a few years ago for Church fundraising. Large families and the old and young attend, as well as a lot of the wider local community."

"I think people are happy to be part of the parish and don't want to move out. Even though we're now part of a busy city, there's still a village feel."



# Our Parishes



## St Thomas More, Knebworth, Herts

*“The parish church as Microcosm”  
Teaching us about the community*

St Thomas More Church in Knebworth is the first church in the UK to be dedicated to the saint of the English Reformation. A temporary church, standing on the site of the current parish hall, was built in January 1935. That church was the first in the country to be dedicated to St Thomas More on the day of his canonisation on the 16 May 1935.

Knebworth, a small village in Hertfordshire, is just south of Stevenage. Canon Daniel Cronin has been parish priest at Knebworth since 2007. He says:

“This is a parish with lots of young families and young children. In a place like this, you really see the Church as a microcosm. It teaches us about the whole community, the vitality, the youthfulness, and the normality. It’s a very typical, good parish.”

As a former national chaplain for the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP), Canon Cronin is particularly proud of the work the society does within his parish. “I have great regard for the SVP” he tells me. “The Society is very strong in the parish and has recently recruited six new members. There is a fantastic spirit about them, and it is a group that does a tremendous amount of good.”

Canon Cronin is keen to sing the praises of his parishioners. At Knebworth, he tells me, there is a “lively atmosphere, with a very can-do attitude. There are a lot of people here who can really help with everything”. These include local teachers who help with the sacramental preparation throughout the year: “We have a fantastic team of catechists who maintain a high standard and love their work.”

Most secondary age school children from the parish attend the John Henry Newman School in Stevenage. Canon Cronin says: “It is an absolutely outstanding school in every way. The headteacher, Michael Kelly, is just first class. All the pupils are happy, even at that difficult age, to engage with you.”

At the end of June 2011, Archbishop Vincent Nichols came to the church to celebrate the 75th anniversary Mass of its dedication. “The Archbishop preached beautifully and made a big impression on everyone”, says Canon Cronin. “When the choir sang a special blessing for him composed by John Rutter he said: ‘It is something I will never forget. He was friendly, kind and his visit will be something everyone will remember for a long time.’”

The parish boasts a wonderful choir (which a visitor to the parish said was “worthy of a cathedral”). Acting on this suggestion, as part of the events to mark the parish’s anniversary, Canon Cronin arranged for the parish choir to perform at Westminster Cathedral. “The choir did incredibly well and they certainly surpassed themselves. Taking half of the congregation to the Cathedral was a tremendous occasion for everyone involved!”



## St Peter and St Paul, Northfields, West London

### *“God given gifts” Using talents and resources to share faith in the community*

Celebrating the God-given gifts of the parish and discovering new people and new gifts in the wider community were the key themes of a two week Parish Mission held by St Peter and St Paul Catholic Parish in Northfields, Ealing, West London from 2 – 17 April 2011.

Fr Jim Duffy, parish priest explains: “Some people will remember missions as being a time of being preached at, perhaps visited at home, and sometimes being ‘hell fire and brimstone’ in flavour! That’s not what our Mission was at all.”

“In the midst of busy parish life and everyday living, it was good to try and make some time to pause, reflect and celebrate aspects of both of our personal spiritual lives and that of the parish community as well as the day-to-day life and needs of the parish. Our Parish Mission gave us an opportunity to do just that. The title ‘One Body, Many Gifts’ reflected on and celebrated the many God-given gifts that parish members have and use to the benefit of both the parish and wider community.”

“Our Mission has allowed us to discover new people and new gifts in our parish. Even before the Parish Mission started, large numbers of parishioners agreed to help. Whether it was driving the mission team around the parish, providing much needed food and accommodation for the members of the Sion Community, or just providing encouragement to those who were a bit unsure of how to take part, the Parish Mission has really helped to develop and strengthen our already active parish community.”

Under the title ‘One Body Many Gifts’, Northfields’ Parish Mission was a collaboration between the parish and the Brentwood based Sion Community.

The first week of the Parish Mission involved the mission team visiting homes where members of the Sion Community, accompanied by a parishioner, shared their faith and spent time in prayer. At the same time, Mount Carmel School, Northfields’ Parish local Catholic primary school, experienced their own mission with the Sion School Mission Team.

The second week, was composed of non-Eucharistic celebrations in the evening, each with their own sub-theme, reflecting aspects of the main theme of ‘One Body, Many Gifts’. One evening was devoted to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and was, in effect, the Lenten Reconciliation Service. The whole mission came to a rousing end with a social evening in the Parish Hall.



# Our Priests

*“Just as a human body, though it is made of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ.”*

1 Corinthians 12: 2



## Prison Chaplain, Fr Malachy Keegan

*“I was in prison and you visited me”  
Bringing the Lord’s love and peace into  
dark places*

Mgr Malachy Keegan is the Catholic Bishops’ Prison Advisor. Here he reflects on the work done to bring God’s love to people held in prison.

Among the Corporal Works of Mercy is the Gospel imperative to visit those in prison. There are about 89,000 people held in almost 150 prisons in England and Wales. In the Archdiocese of Westminster; as well as general prisons, there are a number of prisons specifically for Women, Young Offenders, Deportees, and Remand prisoners. The response of the Church is to appoint Catholic chaplains to provide for the Faith needs of those who have been sent to prison by our Criminal Justice system.

Our chaplains are Priests, Deacons, Religious Sisters and Brothers and Lay-People, all dedicated to bringing the Lord’s love and peace into those dark places. Our chaplains provide opportunities for those held in prisons to celebrate Mass and receive the Sacraments, to deepen their Faith and to receive the support they need to find a new way to live their lives. The chaplains are joined by many dedicated volunteers. Increasingly, too, our chaplains try to create outside structures to support people when they leave prison. All the statistics prove that if people have moral support and a little practical support while in prison and when they leave prison, they are much more able to break a cycle of reoffending. To find out a little more about the opportunities to help our chaplains as a volunteer, please look on the website of PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust). There you can find out about a re-settlement scheme called ‘Basic Caring Communities’ by which you could join a little group of people in helping somebody to live a new life.







## Hospital Chaplain, Fr Peter Scott

*“A constant source of strength”  
Providing solace and encouragement to  
the sick and their families*

Fr Peter Scott has worked as full time Roman Catholic chaplain to Imperial College Healthcare Trust for the past three and a half years. Fr Peter, a late vocation to the priesthood, has a background of working in the construction industry, journalism and teaching and feels that the variety of experience he has had in life stands him in good stead in his hospital ministry.

With the patients of six hospitals (three major London Hospitals: St Mary's, Paddington, Charing Cross Hospital and Hammersmith Hospital) to minister to, and on call regularly twenty-four hours per day, it's not the easiest assignment he has had in life – but he attests it is certainly the most fulfilling. A priest in this work can't help but feel in the front line of ministry. The work encompasses being there with prayer and the sacraments for the sick, the dying and thankfully the recovering. Being there to support relatives and friends of the patients through grief, trauma, bereavement and often, again thankfully, joy, is an essential part of this ministry. Regular celebration of the Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Holy Communion, the Sacrament of the Sick, baptism and even marriage in exceptional circumstances, are all part of the daily work.

Perhaps the experience of the mother of one of the hospital patients he tended to over the past year encapsulates a picture of the work of the hospital chaplain rather succinctly:

Marina Gray's son, Daniel, suffered an extremely serious head injury in a road accident. Mrs Gray gets positively emotional when she talks about the role that St Mary's Hospital chapel and the Catholic chaplain played for her and her family in those traumatic weeks when Daniel was in a coma.

“While Daniel was in a critical condition in St Mary's Hospital the chaplain Fr Peter Scott became a constant source of strength and the hospital chapel became a second home for me and my family. We attended the Sunday and weekday Masses. We were there early in the morning. We were there at midnight. The chaplain was always the person we went to for solace and encouragement. The solace and encouragement that only the Faith can bring.”

## University Chaplain, Fr Peter Wilson

*“Gather, Accompany and Send”  
Enabling young people to go out and  
share goodness*

Recently the university chaplains were by turns amused and concerned that we had come up with GAS as a mnemonic for what we do! Having considered all we do, we distilled those into three core activities: Gather, Accompany and Send.

London is a major centre of higher education: the largest in the European Union, and by far the largest in the UK, with students from all continents. Many are here for just one year, or even less. They do not live or study in a single location, but are scattered. To “Gather” students in that context requires some imaginative thinking. Fortunately we have a central chaplaincy, Newman House, with a resident community, who form the core around which other students can congregate. They are an immensely inspiring group of people, with a yearning to be faithful Christians and a desire to do good. We gather for Mass, of course, but also for prayer, for catechesis, for human development and sometimes just for fun!

By “Accompany” we mean the support we try to provide to students as they learn to deal with life's challenges, often involving complicated relationships. There is a significant use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There is also much work in fostering a sense of vocation, and particularly in helping those who are discerning a vocation to priesthood and religious life.

After establishing wonderfully strong relationships with people, the end of each academic year is naturally a sad time for chaplains, for by the very nature of our work we are together for a limited time. So we are accustomed to saying goodbye. Hopefully it is not just a parting but a “Sending”: that our students may find their mission in the world and in the Church. And how wonderful to meet some of them again a few years later as we are invited to preside at weddings, attend professions or ordinations.

Gather, Accompany and Send. It is a very rewarding and fulfilling ministry, and we always hope, a fruitful one too.



# Our Priests



## Fr John Byrne, Hemel Hempstead

*“Keeping hope alive” Visiting the sick,  
prisoners and school children*

Being parish priest of more than one parish changes one’s style of ministry. Each parish has its own strengths and resources with their own parish council and finance committee. The active involvement of the parishes is vital. It is very much a matter of trust and partnership working together, pooling resources and expertise i.e. baptism preparation (120 baptised) first communion (100 children) Confirmation (60), pre-marriage course (24) RCIA (20 adults) sick and housebound visitation group, bereavement group, Knights of St Columba, CWL and Scouts and other groups which all play a part in building up the Kingdom of God.

Undoubtedly one of the highlights of my ministry is being chaplain to 3 schools, one of them a secondary school with approximately 1,100 students. I see at first hand, every week, the goodness and holiness of young people, which fills me with optimism and hope.

My weekly visits to the prison are both challenging and rewarding. There are prisoners from every continent. Regular contact with a priest is very important for them as is weekly Mass. Recently I baptised four prisoners. After the Baptism one of them gave a speech. It was one of the most moving speeches I

have ever heard. Keeping hope alive and deepening awareness of God’s presence are important in the prison community.

Visiting the sick in hospital offers a unique opportunity to gain insight into one of life’s greatest mysteries of suffering, death and dying. One afternoon I got paged to go to the hospital and anoint a man who was on a life support machine. His family wanted me to give him the ‘last rites’ before the doctors switched off the machine. I stayed a while with his distraught family and then left for the doctors to turn off the machine. A few days later I was told the man made a complete recovery. Some weeks later he came to see me to say ‘thanks’. Tears were streaming down his cheeks. We both cried and we both knew that God had given him extra time. He is still in fine health. God’s will be done.

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## Monsignor Jim Curry, Our Lady of Victories, Kensington

*“Welcoming the Stranger”  
Offering community and stability to  
newcomers to London*

A parish priest has a vital role to play in welcoming newcomers into the Church. One such parish priest is Mgr Jim Curry, of Our Lady of Victories in Kensington.



Mgr Jim says: “As many as one third of our parishioners form part of a transient community who are passing through London. They come to the Capital to work for a year or two years and move to Kensington to live. Often they have no family or friends in London. For such people, Our Lady of Victories offers a vital



sense of a settled, welcoming environment that can help them feel at home in new and unfamiliar surroundings. In all our work and interactions, my parishioners and I remember that we are serving God and following the example of Jesus by welcoming the stranger."

"While Kensington is perceived as a prosperous area, there are a significant number of people who wonder into the church or knock on my door who are lonely, looking for company or advice and a listening ear. Sometimes they are experiencing drug or alcohol related problems, sometimes ill health, other times they are in financial difficulty. Very often they are seeking a solution that goes deep into the heart of faith – a sign of hope, a sense of reconciliation, a reminder of their worth and always need for respect. Part of my vocation as a priest is to provide these members of my community with a sense of connectedness. It means seeking to relate to others with empathy. On a practical level it also means putting them in touch with like minded people who are able to help them such as the Cardinal Hume Centre or counseling services. I also provide advocacy on behalf of the migrant community. Isolation is a terrible aspect of social deprivation, and connecting people, allowing them to feel part of a community, is very important. Everyone needs moral and spiritual support and that is what my work is about."

## Fr David Evans, St John the Baptist, Hackney

*"Connectedness and coming home"  
Sacraments help young people and families feel united*

By preparing children to receive the Sacraments a parish priest helps in the formation of a young person's identity. The Sacraments bring young people deeper into the life of the Church and enable them to develop their true sense of identity as Christians.

Fr David said: "Children and young people play an essential part in the life of the parish. Helping them to prepare for and receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation is vital in inviting each child to enter into life with Christ. 27 young people prepared for and received the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation at St John the Baptist Parish in Hackney in 2011.

I try to ensure children have been attending weekly Mass for at least 12 months before they receive Holy Communion. This is so that each young person develops a familiarity with and an appreciation of regular worship, and comes to feel part of the parish community. The parish understands that children are the Church of the present, as well as the future. Children provide a constant call to adults to live out Christian qualities of care, patience, gentleness, empathy and understanding.

The Sacraments are important to young people and are something they look forward to very much. Young people are a channel for Evangelisation. Their excitement around the Sacraments - their personal encounter with Christ, shared with others - brings other newcomers into the Church. Children are curious, they are open, they are sensitive and receptive to Christ's call, and sometimes this comes through one another.

Being at Mass, feeling and being part of the Body of Christ, is an incredibly powerful experience for a child. At their stage of life when they are vulnerable to external influences, the Sacraments help them to shape their identity in a healthy positive way. They are nourished both through awareness of their internal life, and through their connectedness with the community of the Church.

Thus they are less likely to be susceptible to negative influences, oppressive peer pressure and wayward ideologies. Rather they are firmly rooted in truth, lived out in the loving environment of the Church.

For the many migrant families who attend the parish, the Sacraments provide a sense of connectedness and coming home. The Eucharist connects them with their homeland as a universal experience that can overcome the separation of distance and borders. The sacraments, received in faith by their children, unite them where ever they are in the world. The sacraments enable the Body of Christ to remain connected through their children."



# Our Place in the World



*“Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.”*

Romans 13: 10



## Hackney Winter Night Shelter

*“Breaking down barriers” Combating isolation experienced by the homeless*

The Hackney Winter Night Shelter (HWNS) is a grass roots project run by local volunteers in spaces provided by a network of churches in Hackney. Started 17 years ago, the Shelter operates from 1 January to 31 March each year, in different halls on each night of the week. Volunteers from the church hosting any particular evening, along with local faith groups and community, offer a warm welcome, a hot meal, a bed and breakfast for up to 25 guests a night.

Link workers, as well as the homelessness charity Thames Reach, provide expert advice and information, helping the Shelter’s guests to break out of the cycle of homelessness and move into longer term, more sustainable, accommodation.

The Shelter was started by volunteers in parishes in response to the number of rough sleepers in the Hackney area. Over 500 volunteers continue to run the Shelter, working alongside their neighbours to build community spirit and shared goals, at the same time as helping those who have been sleeping on the streets.

A Link Worker operates a telephone booking system so guests can book themselves in and be sure of a place in a hall when they arrive at the Shelter. Alternatives are often found for those the Shelter cannot physically accommodate.

Canon Paschal Ryan is parish priest at a Church which provides shelter facilities for the homeless. He explains :

“The Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, as part of the Hackney Winter Night Shelter, provides people who are homeless with welcome, warmth, shelter, food, and company. It also plays a vital role at putting into practice the Christian call to







care for our neighbour. Often, people find themselves sleeping rough because they have no one to care for them. This Shelter is an essential response from the heart of faith, providing welcome to those who have nowhere else to seek refuge. This not only has a direct impact on the people we provide for. It also raises awareness amongst volunteers and their wider contacts in mainstream communities. Through their training, they come to understand the causes of homelessness which are often societal as well as personal.

Combating the sense of isolation that homeless people encounter is very important. The night shelter at Hackney breaks down the barriers between people with stable lives and homes, and our guests who often have very little stability or security. At the shelter, people develop friendships, and the isolation of being on the margins of the society, starts to dissolve."

## St John Southworth Fund

*"Serving the Common good"  
Supporting grassroots social action at  
the heart of communities*

**A wide range of projects, including those which tackle knife crime, alleviate homelessness and support children with disabilities are benefitting from the Diocese of Westminster's St John Southworth Fund.**

Latest figures show that since 2007 around £2m has been distributed, through over 225 awards, to help the poorest and most disadvantaged in London and the Diocese. In 2011 a total of £300,111 was given in grants to 79 organisations and to 47 individuals.

### These included:

- £5,000 to the Tower Hamlets Friends and Neighbours befriending service for older people, which supports over 400 frail, isolated older people per year through home visits, social activities and practical support in coping with many aspects of their lives for which they have no-one else to help.
- £10,000 to The Peter Rigby Trust to help fund specialist speech and language therapy for children with cerebral palsy, helping many severely disabled children to develop their full capabilities, however limited, and supporting their families.
- £5,000 to the Jesuit Refugee Service Companionship Project, a new ministry of companionship, consoling and encouraging that seeks to meet the deeper spiritual needs of refugees and asylum seekers, to facilitate the healing grace of God as they deal with the traumas and hardships they have experienced.

The St John Southworth Fund is named after a priest born in 1592 and ordained in Douai, France 1618. Returning to England, Fr Southworth ministered in the area close to where Westminster Cathedral now stands. During the plague of 1636, he tended the sick with outstanding devotion and courage.

### Helping all London boroughs and beyond

Set up in 2007, the St John Southworth Fund assists those in poverty or in danger of deprivation, including the homeless, migrants seeking sanctuary, the elderly and infirm, and children or young people in poverty or with disabilities, by supporting parishes, organisations and projects, and by giving some grants direct to individuals. The older legacies and trusts embraced by the Fund award grants throughout Greater London, while money now being donated is used to help those across Westminster Diocese, thereby expressing the Church's pastoral concern for the needy and love for the poor in practical ways, as the difficult economic times continue with little sign of improving.

Edmund Adamus, who was responsible for administering the Fund said: "The St John Southworth Fund has helped many in London suffering various levels of deprivation. We are deeply grateful to all who have donated to the Fund, either individually or through parishes, to make this vital assistance possible."

"Supporting grassroots social action at the heart of communities has such potential for the mission of the Church, as these are the good works that serve the common good."

"From 2010-2011, it was a particular privilege to facilitate the award of larger grants exceeding £10,000 on behalf of the Diocesan Trustees as a pastoral expression of the local Church in the wake of the economic downturn which is having an increasingly adverse affect upon families and causing more individual cases of hardship."



# Our Place in the World



## Civic Unrest, Stamford Hill

*“Bringing out the best” Restoring the principles of respect and honesty after the August 2011 Riots*

St Ignatius Church in Stamford Hill was one of a number of Catholic churches which helped those affected by the civic unrest that started in Tottenham and spread across London in August 2011.

Representatives from St Ignatius parish, Stamford Hill joined community leaders across Haringey, an area particularly affected by violence in a call for peace and justice.

Sister Eugenia of St Ignatius Church, who is Co-Chair of Haringey Citizens said: ‘(we) do not condone the burning of homes, the looting of local businesses, nor the destruction of the heart of our neighbourhood.’ Haringey Citizens is an alliance of civil-society institutions which work together for the common good in the area.

In addition to working with Haringey Citizens, Alvin Carpio, the social outreach co-ordinator at St Ignatius Church in Stamford Hill, spoke about the community response to riots. He said: “On Monday 8 August I spoke at Tottenham’s Vigil of Peace calling for community leaders to lead, meet and organise. This rally was convened by 30 local leaders who at a meeting on Sunday 7 August decided to hold a rally calling for an end to the violence. 200 people turned-out in Tottenham, on Monument Way, calling for peace, condemning the looters and renewing hope. It was a wonderful display of community united against the crimes committed by an unrepresentative minority.”

## English Classes

*“The confidence to speak”  
English classes help refugees and migrants to survive*

In June 2011 teacher-volunteers gathered at Our Lady’s Church, St John’s Wood to celebrate the end of a successful year of classes run by Justice and Peace groups for about 100 students in eight venues across the Westminster diocese.

At the party, Jan Janoszka, Justice and Peace English Classes Coordinator, announced the launch of a new book ‘Guidebook - English for Migrants’, which he hopes will help volunteers and parishes set up similar schemes elsewhere. The guidebook has been compiled with the help of the teacher-volunteers across the diocese, who have contributed their experience and expertise so that others can start classes for the benefit of the many refugees and migrants who need free English classes to survive.

Jan has begun or helped run classes as far apart as Bethnal Green, Neasden, Stamford Hill and St John’s Wood. The Justice and Peace Commission has been financed by the St John Southworth Fund for Jan’s post. Just as important is the work carried out by the dozen or so volunteers who give two or three hours once or twice a week to teach English either to destitute sanctuary seekers or to migrants who cannot get to other English classes.

Students who attended the social were very grateful for the help offered, and were asked to spread the news about the classes. One young man from Romania spoke of the difficulty of getting jobs or a work permit without English. Two Brazilians from the Willesden class insisted they were only beginning, but had found their way from Willesden to St John’s Wood successfully. A Portuguese lady was chanting ‘Speak, speak, speak, speak!’ – her teacher’s advice for improvement was to have confidence to speak as often as possible.







Commenting on the unrest, Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster said: "The scenes of the last few nights in parts of London and elsewhere are shocking. The criminal violence and theft that have been witnessed are to be condemned. They are a callous disregard for the common good of our society and show how easily basic principles of respect and honesty are cast aside."

"I ask that Catholics pray especially for those directly affected by the violence, for those facing danger on the streets, for those whose livelihood has been ruined, for those whose lives are marked by fear, for those whose parents are worried about the behaviour of their youngsters and for those who are being tempted into violence and theft."

"In the face of these difficulties, a common effort is needed to ensure that these times bring out the best in our society and not the worst."

## St Dominic's School, Harrow

### *"Appreciating what I have right now" Pupils swap the classroom for a cardboard box*

In June 2011, 70 students from St Dominic's Sixth Form College in Harrow, took to the streets as part of Fair World Week, in response to the Holy Father's call for Catholics to be concerned with social justice.

From building and sleeping in improvised shacks, working at a soup kitchen and helping on a project for asylum seekers, students from the north London college had a real taste of what it's like to be hungry and homeless.

One team, of 27 students and six staff, abandoned home comforts to spend 24 hours living in a 'slum' built from old pallets, cardboard and plastic sheeting and without luxuries such as running water, mobile phones or make-up.

The experience gave the group a glimpse of what life is like for the one billion people worldwide who live in slums.

"It's difficult to live as they do and we haven't even done it properly!" said Sinead, 17. "It's made me appreciate what I've got right now," added Chandini. For many of the group it was the

limited diet of bread, rice and vegetables that had the biggest impact. "I've never been so thankful for two slices of bread in my life" said Daniel.

The normally energetic Kemi was subdued: "I was so hungry I didn't care what I was eating. I think we take a lot for granted, like if we are hungry we can just go down to the shops to get food," she said.

A second group of 20 students and staff swapped life in the classroom for an insight into a day in the life of a homeless Londoner. Working at the London Jesus Centre, they experienced at first hand Christianity in action and spent time serving food and listening to the stories of the Centre's clients.

Nancy Parsons, Head of Religious Studies, said: "the work that the community does is truly remarkable. The lengths they go to support and enhance the lives of the visitors knows no bounds".

For students Anita and Michaela the experience was a real eye-opener: "The day was very humbling and has made me reflect on what I have but more importantly on what I can give" said Anita. "It is very easy for us to give money but giving time is far more valuable. We all have a responsibility to those less fortunate and it's all too easy to think that it could never happen to me" reflected Michaela.

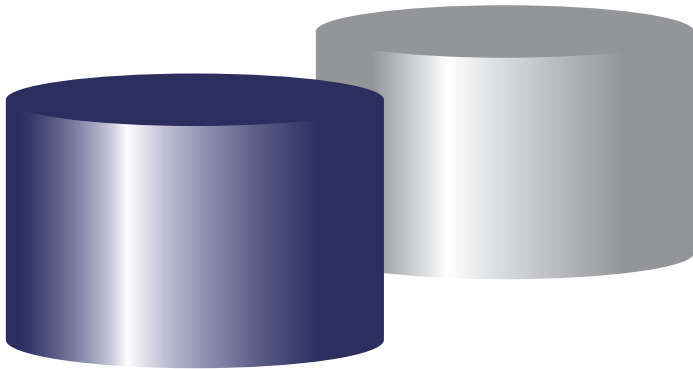
At the Catholic Worker Farm in Rickmansworth, Scott and Maria Albrecht share their home with ten destitute female asylum seekers and their children. College Principal Patrick Harty and a group of ten students spent a day helping on the farm and seeing how this family live out Catholic social teaching through practicing the works of mercy.

The teams raised more than £2,000 in sponsorship, which will go to two charities; Toybox, and Revelation Life, whose work is changing the lives of children in the slums of Uganda for the better.



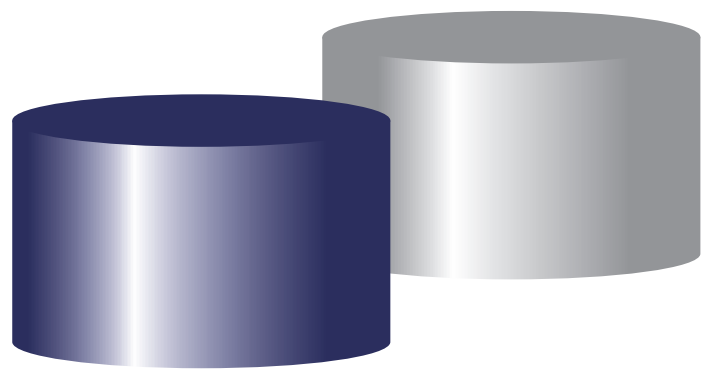
# Income and expenditure

## Parish Income (total)



2011 Total – £32,590,000  
2010 Total – £32,347,000

## Curial Income (total)



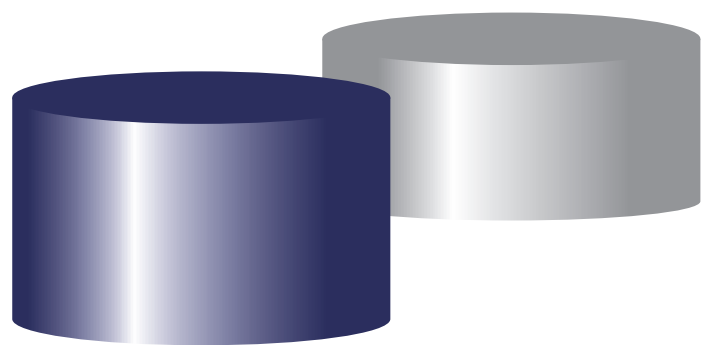
2011 Total – £9,353,000  
2010 Total – £9,224,000

## Parish Expenditure (total)



2011 Total – £27,636,000  
2010 Total – £27,074,000

## Curial Expenditure (total)

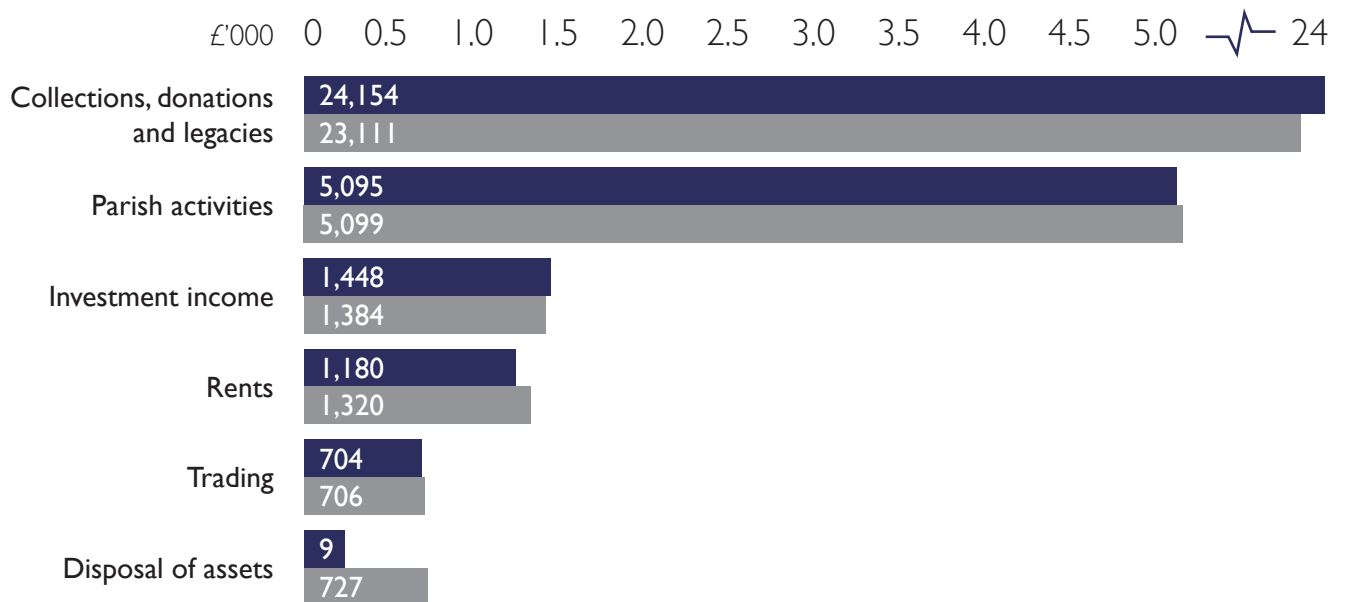


2011 Total – £10,175,000  
2010 Total – £9,075,000



# Parishes

## Income



### Parish and Curia Income Commentary

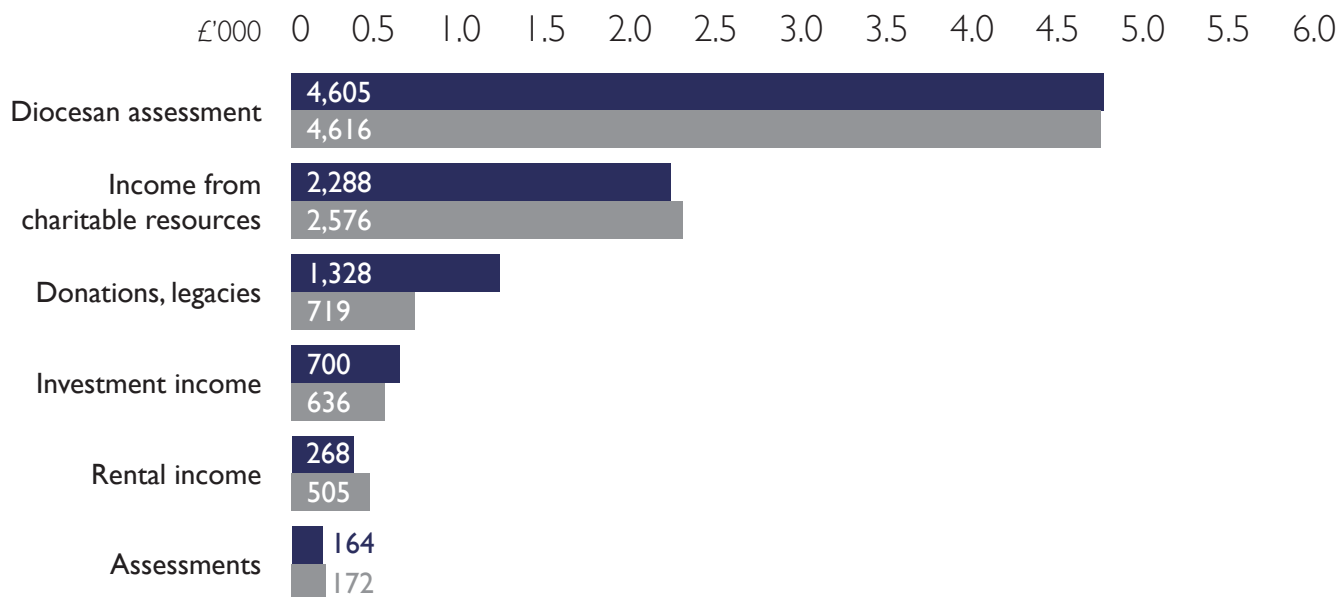
Despite the absence of exceptional income which in 2010 contributed £72k and a drop of £140k in rental income, overall income rose by over £200k thanks to an increase of £1m in collections and donations throughout our parishes.

Curial income rose overall by £129k with increased donations offsetting a reduction of income from the Pastoral Centres.



# Curia

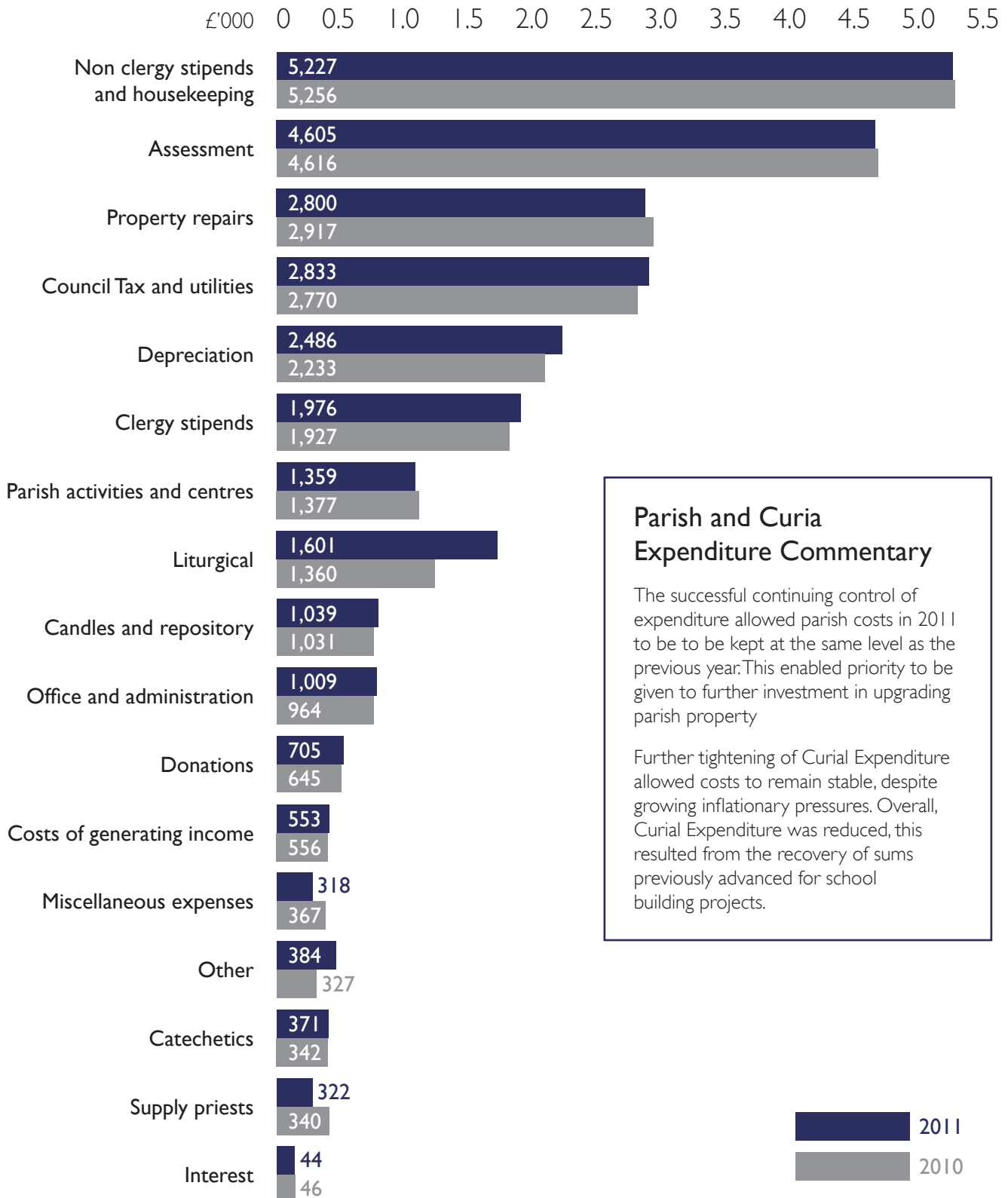
## Income





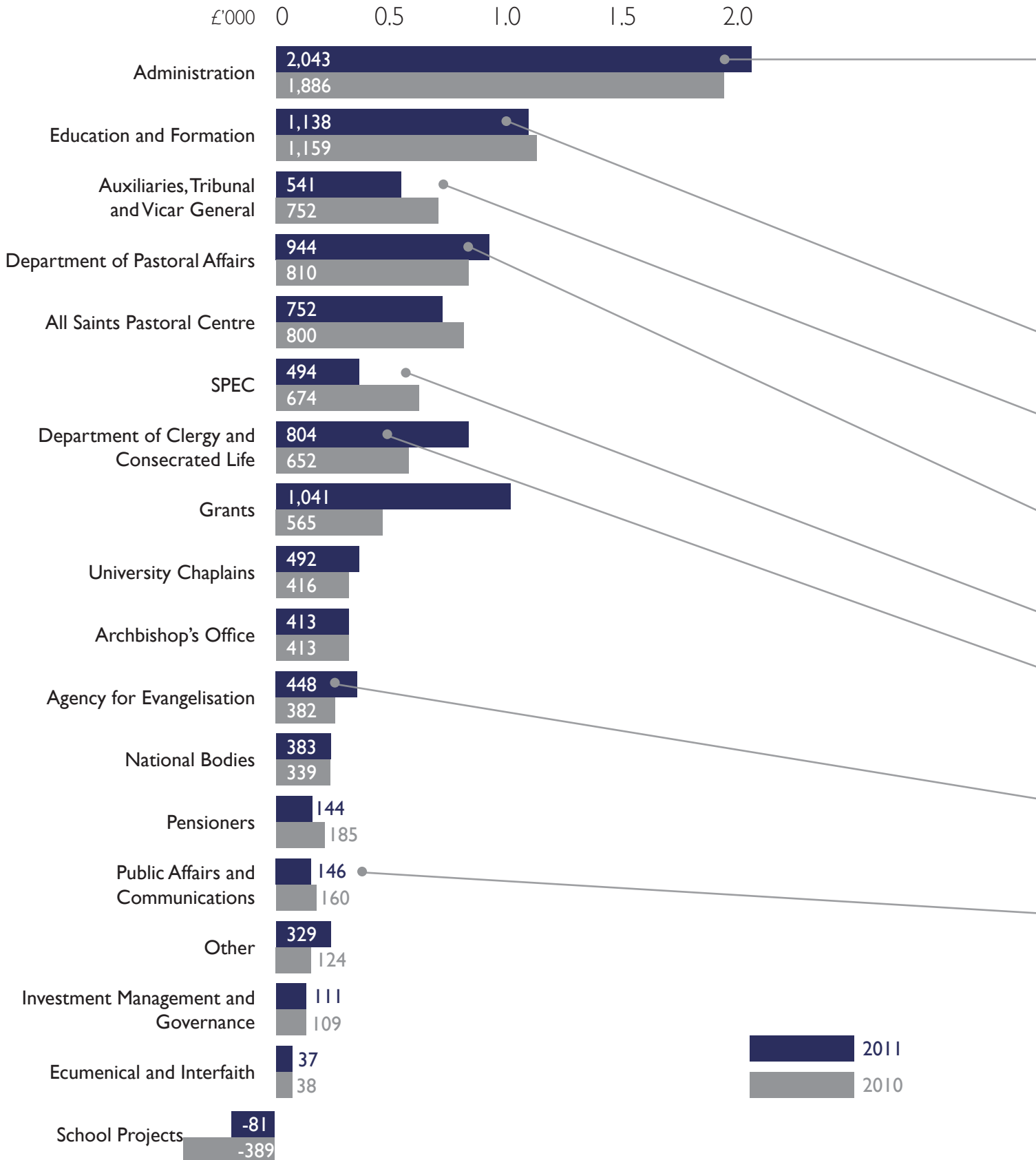
# Parishes

## Expenditure



# Curia

## Expenditure





# Curia

## Expenditure overview

- **Processed 53,000** financial transactions
- **Financial supervision** of **149** school construction projects worth **£147.9 million**
- **Administered** monthly stipend and payroll for over **1,100** officers and employees
- **Reclaimed** over **£2 million** of Gift Aid
- **Completed 47** parish audits
- **Over 210** IT work orders completed
- **Managed 46** large parish projects with an overall value of **£16 million**
- **Over £6 million** of worth of “loans” provided to **39** parishes
- **Assisted 24** parishes

- **Over £14 million** new government grants brought in to support capital projects in schools
- **Over 2,855** School staff attended our **109** courses and conferences offered
- **808** visits to advise schools and **109** meetings to partner with local authorities
- **Appointed 349** governors, **25** Head Teachers and **23** Deputy Head Teachers

- **Processed 2,859** marriage permission and applications of which **958** were for overseas and **697** RCIA applications

- **Assisted 229** couples in their marriage preparations
- **Outreach** to **54** parishes to help individuals with learning difficulties to practice their faith
- **Awarded 126** grants to help social justice activities
- **Provided** marriage enrichment for **646** couples from over **150** parishes

- **Over 11,000** young people attended programmes at our SPEC Youth Centres

- **Co-ordinated** and provided support to **40** Ethnic Chaplaincies, **74** Hospital Chaplains, **8** University Chaplains and **6** Prison Chaplains

- **Provided 575** hours of courses attended by **839** parish volunteers
- **Provided** numerous lectures to strengthen Adult Formation and enhance Catechetical training
- **Provided** training to **174** parishes
- **Provided** resources and more than **19,000** booklets for over **160** parishes and **16** preparation sessions for each of the two faith sharing sessions

- **132,000 copies** of the Westminster Record printed and **1,030,053** visits to diocesan website

# How to support the Diocese of Westminster

The Diocese of Westminster is dependent on voluntary donations and you can make a real difference by supporting one of more of the following programmes:

- The care of sick and elderly priests
- The training of new priests
- Evangelisation and formation
- The inclusion of all people in the life of the church
- The Trinity Fund (which provides a lifeline to parishes with financial problems)
- Work with young people
- Lourdes pilgrimage
- Preserving church buildings

You can make a donation online at [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations).

You can also get further information about the different ways that you can help by contacting:

Head of Planned Giving & Appeals,  
Diocese of Westminster,  
46 Francis Street,  
London SW1P 1QN

Email: [charlesdonington@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:charlesdonington@rcdow.org.uk)  
Tel: 020 7798 9375











## Keep in touch with the Diocese of Westminster

### On our website

Our website has the latest news about the work and mission of the Catholic church in the diocese. It also including full listings of all Catholic parishes and schools and hospital chaplains. You can visit our website at [www.rcdow.org.uk](http://www.rcdow.org.uk)

### On your mobile phone

You can also keep in touch with the latest news about the Diocese of Westminster on your mobile phone. Please visit [www.catholicmobile.mobi](http://www.catholicmobile.mobi) to access a summary of the latest news and events

### On Facebook



[www.facebook.com/diocese.westminster](http://www.facebook.com/diocese.westminster)

### On Twitter



[twitter.com/RCWestminster](http://twitter.com/RCWestminster)

### Westminster Record

The Westminster Record is the newspaper for the Diocese of Westminster. Published every month, it includes news, features and photographs reflecting the mission and life of Catholic parishes, schools and people in the diocese. The Westminster Record costs just 20p, and can be bought in most parishes in the diocese.

### Diocesan Year Book

The 2013 Diocesan Year Book contains full listings of Catholic Parishes, Priests, Schools and Societies. To be published in December 2012, it also includes the 2013 Liturgical Calendar. To order a copy please contact [wyb@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:wyb@rcdow.org.uk)

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**Diocese of Westminster**