

Facts & Figures 08

Overview

The Diocesan Synod budgeted for 123 clergy to be distributed across 143 parochial posts. Some of these positions are part time, but together amount to 133 full time appointments. Typically there were 10 vacancies for parish based clergy and in addition 15 curates were in training.

The Board of Finance requested £6.3m from the parishes. At the end of the year £5.9m had been received towards a total budget of £7.6m. The shortfall in parish share of over £400k was partly met by additional income of £137k from the Church Commissioners and following a number of other small adjustments, the net deficit compared to budget was £216k.

Overall, the Board of Finance had a total deficit of over £8m, which was the result of falls in property and investment values. The majority of the Board's properties are held for the long term and we must hope for recovery when market conditions improve. Despite the reported deficits, the liquidity of the Board remains strong.

Diocesan Synod

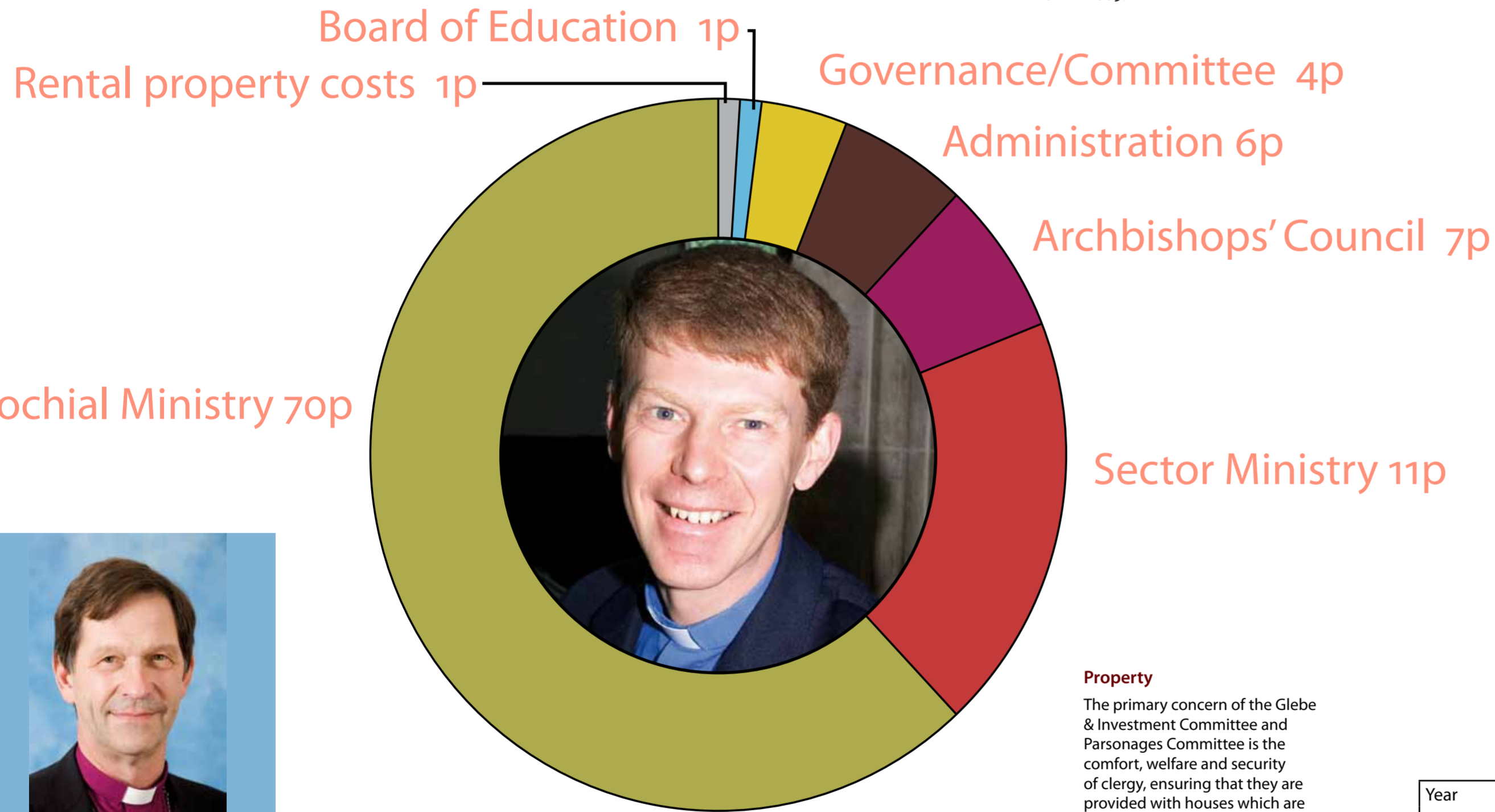
The Diocesan Synod, the democratically elected decision-making body of the diocese, met three times during 2008.

Highlights included a presentation by Bishop Clive arising from the 'Fifth Mark of Mission' *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth*, which resulted in the adoption of a diocesan environmental policy. Synod also considered the very serious issues surrounding domestic violence and heralded the work being done through the office of the Community Affairs Adviser and the Mothers' Union. Delegates also heard 2009 was the Year of the Child. Helen Woodroffe and Helen Matter outlined the exciting events which climax in June.

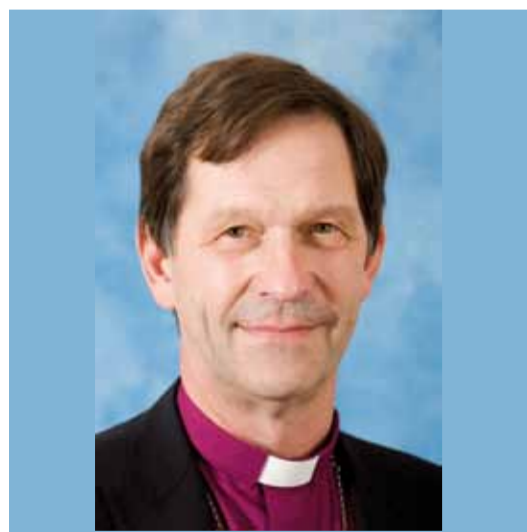
Bishop Nigel shared something of his experience at the Lambeth Conference. The main focus had been the rebuilding of fractured relationships and equipping Bishops for ministry. He also spoke of the shape of ministry and a structure for our church which could be maintained into the future and announced his intention to instigate a structures review. It was hoped that this would enable important decisions to be made regarding the way in which our diocese is organised to deliver ministry and mission.

The Diocesan Synod also considered and expressed opinion on matters referred from General Synod, received the accounts for 2007, and approved the budget for our work in 2009.

Parish Share results from our deaneries



How each £1 of diocesan budget is spent



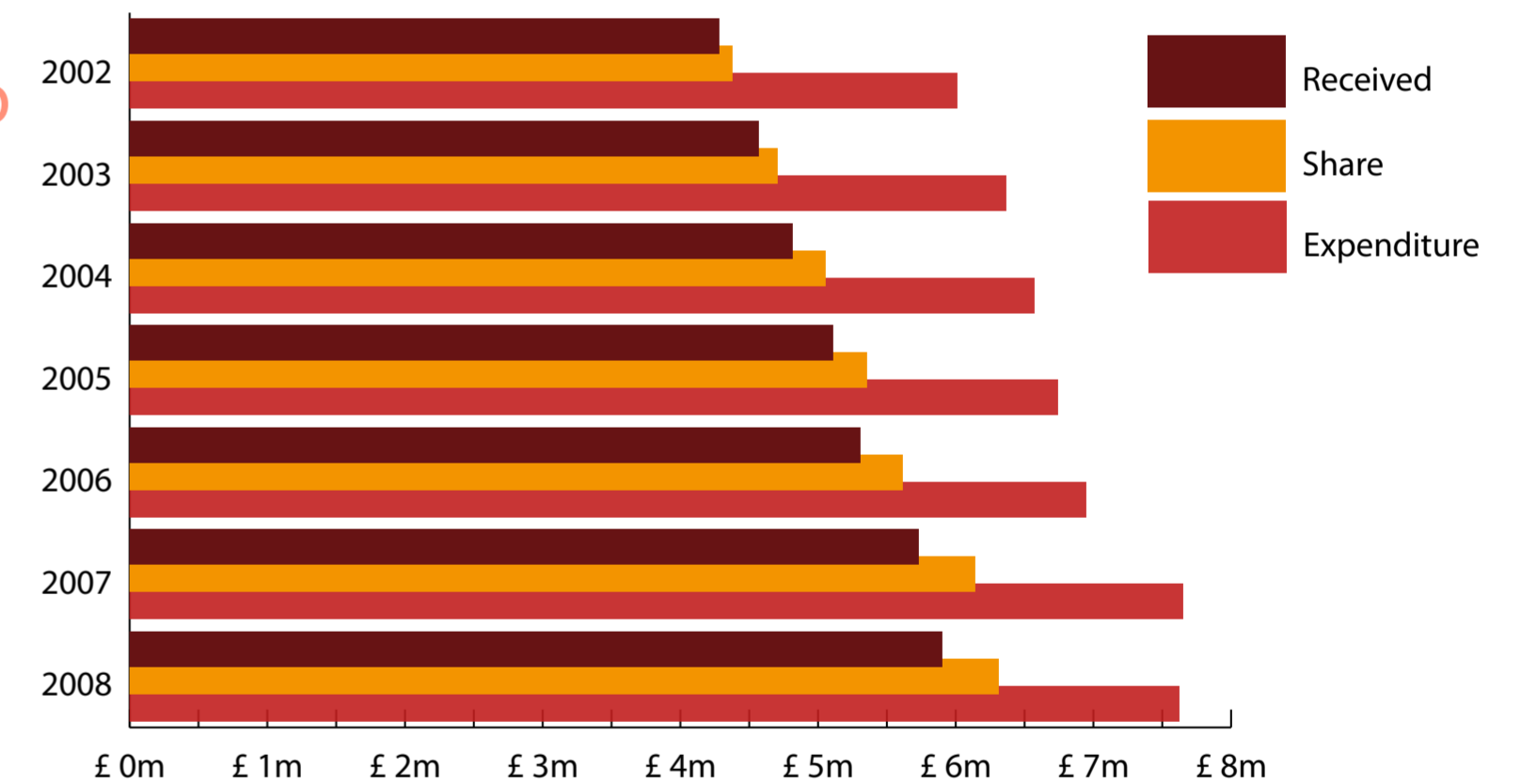
As you can see from this material, the mission and ministry of our work flourishes because of your gifts. In these financially difficult days, I recognise that many are having to make sacrifices, which makes that which you give to support the Church's work even more valuable. 2009 will continue to be trying for many.

Property

The primary concern of the Glebe & Investment Committee and Parsonages Committee is the comfort, welfare and security of clergy, ensuring that they are provided with houses which are economical and fit for purpose both as a place of work and a home.

The committee is also responsible for the buying and selling of clergy houses. It is concerned that, where a house is considered unsuitable, every effort is made to find a replacement. After many years of investigation the committee was delighted to buy a modern house as a replacement for the existing Orford parsonage, which was developed after purchase. The vicarage for St Mary le Tower, Ipswich was also replaced. Houses were also identified and acquired for incoming curates, whilst a number of surplus properties were sold.

Expenditure vs Parish Share



Budgeted Income & Expenditure

Year	2007	2008	Budget 2008	Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income				
Parish Share	5,731	5,898	6,311	(413)
Archbishops' Council	171	286	149	137
Other Income	1,090	1,145	1,100	45
6,992	7,329	7,560	(231)	
Expenditure				
Archbishops' Council	465	489	489	0
Ministry & Mission	6,226	6,138	6,350	212
Education	38	38	38	0
Governance & support costs	931	955	758	(197)
7,660	7,620	7,635	15	
Net deficit before asset disposals & transfers	(688)	(291)	(75)	(216)

Review of 2008

Diocesan Ministry Course

It is a Saturday in January and the first DMC Seminar Day of the new year. All Saints church, Ipswich is buzzing. In the church the Revd Dr Janet Tollington, lecturer in the Old Testament at Westminster College, Cambridge, has the first year students discovering how their understanding of the Old Testament is deepened when it is put into historical context. In the Seminar Room the third year Ordained Local Ministers and Reader candidates are also studying the Bible. Led by Revd Canon Chris Burdon (CME Advisor) and Elizabeth Moore (Lay Training and Education Adviser) they are exploring the different ways Biblical passages can be and have been interpreted and the issues this raises for their use in Christian ministry. In the church hall second year students and third year Local Evangelist candidates are arranging paper squares, circles and triangles as they work out their theological understanding of the relationship between the Church, the Kingdom of God and the World. Guided by Christine Amjad-Ali (DMC Principal) they are exploring how the Gospel can be proclaimed in contemporary culture. During the coffee and lunch breaks, the Revd David Herrick (DMC Director of Studies) fields questions about feedback on assignments and work in the local parish.

The job of the DMC is to help the local church equip itself for its mission by training candidates for a variety of ministries. We seek to do this by helping students deepen their understanding of the Gospel and how it relates to their local context; learn skills in working with others and develop a reflective and prayerful practice of ministry that will continue to grow and encourage others in their own Christian journey.



Bishop Nigel processing into the Cathedral for the Lambeth Conference celebratory Evensong

Youth work

Although 2008 was the beginning of the end of Gavin Stone's time as Diocesan Youth Adviser, it was to prove pivotal for the diocese's work with, for and on behalf of young people in Suffolk. In September, having commissioned a strategic review of this work in 2007, the Bishop's Council received the *Fit for our Purpose?* report. This offered a detailed insight of what had been achieved and a comprehensive series of recommendations. These now provide the basis for the work of the newly appointed part-time Youth Development Adviser.

Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches

The work carried out by PCCs on their church buildings is varied and showed no sign of diminishing during 2008. The DAC dealt with almost 300 new cases and undertook 100 site visits. The Committee's minute books show a snapshot of the work. A random journey through the year takes us to a project involving the local youth community at Bury St Edmunds St George, the fitting of a "green" heat-pump heating system at Brentleigh St Mary, the re-ordering of the west end of Glemsford St Mary to provide a WC, kitchen and children's area, and the mounting of PowerPoint screens and projectors at Ipswich St Matthew.

While repair projects continue across the diocese there are many instances of PCCs wishing to introduce new items into their church buildings, be they pieces of art, a kitchen and/or a WC. Sometimes the inclusion of a WC is straightforward. At other times it is fraught with difficulties which may stretch the patience of a PCC. Be assured the DAC is supportive of adapting our buildings both to make worship more accessible and to allow for other wider community uses. However we need to be aware of the perils of homeliness and guard against inferior installations in order to save money. Our churches were built with the best materials and workmanship of their day; surely a tradition which we should continue to embrace.

Average weekly church attendance
19,600

Communications

It would be easy to fill this article with the details of the communications office's daily round of press releases, responding to the media, producing weekly Enews bulletins and monthly magazines, updating the diocesan handbook and directory and maintaining the website. But its real role is supporting and promoting the diversity of the work of the Church in Suffolk.

2008 was a typically busy year. The Lambeth Conference and the pre conference weekend hosting nine visiting bishops in Suffolk dominated. Our Communications Director Nick Clarke was one of a small number of regional specialists drafted in by the Church House national team to help run the media operation which supported the three week conference.

In November communications supported the Community Affairs initiative, *Old Age and How to Live it*. This was a 'speed dating' morning, held in Aldeburgh, for pensioners to spend time with agencies which offer support and advice. Communications produced and printed a contact details handout before the morning was over. Open Churches Week, Back to Church Sunday, the new Cathedral Library and the White Ribbon campaign, all had practical assistance.

The busiest day for the office was also the saddest. In late February Steven Wright was found guilty of the murder of five Ipswich women. The Church was at the centre of the media reaction to the verdict. The communications office prepared a detailed briefing which our spokesman, Archdeacon Geoffrey, delivered with calm assurance.

One rural parish reported an income of £29,000, almost treble what it had been three years previously

Education

During the year the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) team grew to four (equivalent to three full-time) with the appointment of Alistair Gourlay enabling a much fuller service to both schools and parishes.

The devastating arson attack at St Felix Middle School, Newmarket in August destroyed the building but not the school. With superb support from other local schools and the Local Authority, St Felix was able to re-open in a new modular building in its old grounds. The staff and pupils are to be congratulated in coping so amazingly well in this most difficult situation.

Helen Matter offered a very full programme of inset opportunities on subjects ranging from *Induction training* for new heads, to *Sing a New Song* from the Church School Self-Evaluation form, to *Collective Worship*. Together with Helen Woodroffe and Mark Sanders she organised a weekend Conference on the Year of the Child to which teachers and parish clergy and laity were invited. The benefits are still being reaped not least in school and parish co-operation in producing *Experiencing Easter*.

Alistair has given invaluable support around the thorny question of School Admission Policies and Ofsted and SIAS inspections.

The School Organisation Review continues to occupy a fair amount of the Director's time as the second phase of formal consultation was completed.

Diane Matthews the Education office's ever willing contact person and administrator ensures the grants for church schools are administered meticulously and governor appointments are up to date.

The DBE met four times during the year tackling such topics as Pastoral Care of Church Schools, Academy bids, and Further Education chaplaincy.

Church Schools remain at the Centre of the Church's mission.

400 parishes took part in 2008's Open Churches Week, many organising special events

Multi Faith Chaplaincy Team, Ipswich Education Quarter

The team of ten volunteer chaplains, co-ordinated by Revd David McLeod the full-time Anglican Chaplain, has continued to provide pastoral support to the 9,000 students and staff at University Campus Suffolk (UCS) and Suffolk New College. As well as adding new members to the team it has continued to build upon past successes, marking Holocaust Memorial Day and organising the 'Festival of Festivals': two days of workshops, speakers and events to raise awareness of the beliefs and issues faced by people from different faiths. At UCS they also marked Armistice Day alongside members of staff and students with music, readings and silence (which ended up being 6 minutes long).

Church tourism

Church Tourism is an essential part of the churches 'Ministry of Welcome' and is at the frontiers of evangelism.

The Revd Margaret Blackall, Church Tourism Officer meets with clergy, churchwardens and PCCs to explore ways of improving the welcome churches offer and helping them make the most of their sacred space. Practical assistance is offered in the production of new church guides, benefice trails and other resource material. This work is supported through a monthly Tourism Newsletter which is distributed via the Diocesan Emailing network.

In 2007 Open Church week started. In 2008 nearly 400 churches took part.

Another new initiative this year were church coach tours. Local expert Roy Tricker led the three well supported days.

Parish Resources

Canon Jim Pendorf continues to offer a bespoke financial 'consultancy' to parishes. One of the most dramatic improvements was in a small commuter/rural parish. In 2008, it reported total receipts of £29,000, almost treble what it received just three years earlier. This parish, one of five in a benefice, originally held just two Sunday services a month. Partly as a result of this and in response to an expressed need, it now also hosts a mid-week Eucharist for the benefice.

During the year, Jim has not only advised on local giving initiatives but also supported more parishes than ever before in their search for charitable contributions using funderfinder.

Jim continues to produce a variety of stewardship leaflets which have been widely used by other dioceses in the Church of England and Wales. Thanks also to the International Stewardship Conference hosted in Suffolk in 2007, thousands of leaflets have also been sent to the Episcopal Church across the United States.

World Development

One of the Five Marks of Mission is to seek to transform unjust structures of society. Some of the biggest injustices arise in our relationships with people in the developing world. Growth in trade, exploitation of natural resources, debt repayments, aid flows and advances in communication, mean that those touched by our actions may live many miles from us.

The World Development Adviser Dave Cooper (working with a budget of £800 pa) supports church communities to become more aware of how our actions impact on our neighbours. He keeps parishes and individuals regularly informed about campaigns, prayer needs and other key events by Email. Information has also been disseminated through the East Anglican, Enews and the Diocesan Intercession Paper.

Suffolk churches contributed towards the 117 million people world-wide who stood up against poverty in October and were represented at the National Climate March on 6 December.

Suffolk became a Fairtrade diocese in 2005. Work continues to promote this, encouraging even more churches to make a commitment.

Three discussion leaflets were produced in association with Lay Education highlighting how the development issues of climate change, health and migration are impacting on our link Diocese of Kagera in NW Tanzania. Many church discussion groups appreciate the way these accentuate the link between world development issues and people's lives here in Suffolk.



Collecting water on the shores of Lake Victoria in our link diocese of Kagera

Children's Work

It has been another busy and stimulating year serving our children and all those who work with them. We had contact with almost 6,000 children involving: visits to the Discovery Centre and Cathedral; running Godly Play and Reflective Storytelling sessions in 18 schools; leading 16 parish-school link days to celebrate the major Christian festivals; fun Family Activity Days; the pageantry of the pre-Lambeth celebrations and creating the stunning mosaic at the Suffolk Show.

We completed Godly Play Introductory Days and had two successful Godly Play Conferences at Assington, adding to our Guild of Storytellers who now number 80 in total.

Much of our work during 2008 involved planning and preparing for Year of the Child 2009 (to mark the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Child and 20th Anniversary of Children's Rights). This included a launch weekend (attended by over 100 clergy and children's leaders), the production of the Year of the Child Calendar, and the development of a five year Art & Spirituality project investigating the spiritual nature of the child through the Creative Arts. One of our exciting new projects was the creation of the 'Big Story' Labyrinth (a portable installation involving the telling of 13 reflective Bible stories linked by a pathway of footsteps) to take into schools and churches. This involved planning in the Spring, its production in the Summer, and its trialing with children, storytellers and teachers in the Autumn.



Bishop Nigel visits Haughey School - EADT