

# NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2010

## City Deanery Churches - Bristol



### News for everyone in the pews

#### Mat Ineson our new City Deanery Area Dean



**Rev. Mat Ineson has been appointed by the Bishop as Area Dean of City Deanery and was licensed Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May during the Archdeacon's Visitation service for City Deanery.**

Mat, who is the Priest-in-Charge at St Matthews, Kingsdown and one of the ministers in the Highbury Partnership in the northern area of central Bristol, said he was greatly looking forward to taking up the role alongside his parish responsibilities.

Mat and his wife, Emma, who is also ordained, have been in the Diocese since 2006. They were previously Chaplains at the Lee Abbey Community in Devon. Mat succeeds Rev. Debbie Frazer as Area Dean who handed over at the end of April

#### City Deanery Strategy Update

Many of you will know that we are currently in the middle of a Deanery wide strategic review. It is enormously encouraging and significant that the vast majority of churches have taken part through the initial kick off workshops that explored how we might break the cycle of decline, and through the consultations with representatives of the parishes.

The Deanery Strategy review was inspired by a desire to be strategic in seeking growth by being proactive in mission rather than purely reactive to change. The Strategy is partly a response to the Diocese Strategy 'Releasing the Energy'. It seeks to encourage conditions for churches to grow in depth, numbers, influence and partnership. We hope and pray that it will also identify how we as a Deanery can best resource local churches for growth.

The strategy review has been led by a core group of Rev Debbie Frazer, Beverley Charles, Rev Joe Hasler, John Goodgame and Rev Mat Ineson. There have also been four working groups exploring the main topics that came from discussions at the 'kick off' workshops. These working groups have included a variety of people from across the Deanery both lay and ordained. There has also been a prayer group coordinating prayer across the Deanery and meeting regularly to pray. This has been led by Rev Michael Selman.

So, where are we now? We have received the reports from the working groups, collated the responses from the consultations and are now in the process of writing the report which will define some definitive ways forward and also point us towards the next steps. We are aiming to produce this report and send it to the Deanery representatives at the beginning of October. We will then present our findings and encourage comment and feedback about the strategic proposals at a **Deanery Summit meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October at St Luke's Barton Hill beginning at 7.30.** This will be an open meeting and we hope that every church will be fully represented. If you want your views to be known and want to continue to influence how we move forward then please do be at that meeting if you can. Do please continue to pray that God will guide and lead us.

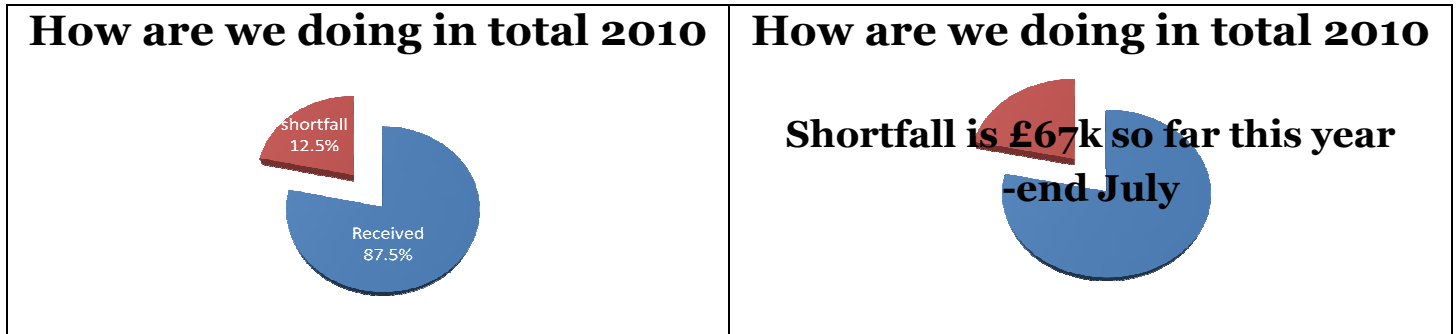
#### **Jesus said:**

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*  
*(John 15 : 5)*

# Parish Share – Deanery Update & Overview for 2011

This article shows just what is happening as far as finance is concerned so far through this year and encourages each church to pledge for 2011. In 2009 we were all asked to pledge the City Deanery share of the Diocesan budget for this year. The amount pledged by the parishes fell short of the 2009 total by 10%. The actual figures being a share pledge of £889,771 compared to the 2009 Share amount of £998,990.

The example chart shown below gives an overall picture up to the end of July this year.



## Lets recognise the good news

- The majority of our Deanery churches are up to date with payments and some even ahead.
- Improvements in the overall City Deanery finance received have been noted with a doubling of % paid by standing order in the year, and is an encouragement to the Diocesan Finance Committee.

## What can we do even better?

- Can churches continue to make more regular payments? This helps cashflow so the Diocese can continue to pay the monthly bills like salary payments.
- Roughly 60% is now paid by standing order. This is a big improvement on the past but some deaneries manage 82%.
- Communicate with those responsible in Deanery and Diocese rather than just pay / not pay.

## Where does this take us for 2011?

- PCC decisions are needed soon for your individual parish pledge. - 30<sup>th</sup> September deadline.
- We all have a challenge to further generosity.
- The Diocese budget depends on the amount that each parish pledges. Remember that by far the largest part of our share pays the stipends of clergy.
- All of us are facing the same process can we work more closely together on such issues.

## Do you want further help?

- Please contact the Deanery Treasurer or Area Dean. ([john.goodgame@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:john.goodgame@blueyonder.co.uk))
- Would a finance workshop help? We are all connected by our City Deanery and working more closely as a team can benefit every church.
- Would access to teaching material on 'Giving' be helpful?
- Would regular updates on Deanery finance help? If so what information would be of benefit?
- Would a visit to your PCC or Finance/Standing Committee assist in making matters clearer?

**We do thank you all for your generosity and commitment to this part of the growth and outreach programme we all have an interest in.**

## IMPORTANT DATES:

**2<sup>nd</sup> October** – Retirement of Archdeacon - A farewell service for Alan and Jen Hawker at Bristol Cathedral on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 3.30pm. The service will be followed by afternoon tea with speeches and a presentation.

**13<sup>th</sup> October** - Deanery Summit meeting at St Luke's Barton Hill beginning at 7.30pm

City Deanery: [citydeanery@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:citydeanery@hotmail.co.uk) Tel: 0117 9441598 (the Deanery Asst. only works on Wednesdays)

## ***In his letter to the Romans, Paul encouraged them:***

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.*

*(Romans 1 :16)*