



## VISION DOCUMENT: SHAPING OUR FUTURE

e-bulletin

March 2019

**Welcome** to the March e-bulletin about our work together to evangelise our diocese in the context of our **Vision Document: Shaping Our Future**. I hear many encouraging stories of parishes working well together on both Renewal and Restructuring. Thank you to those who have been making good progress and those who have invited me to meetings.

We are now one third through the time available to get your draft Partnership Plan done. Please remember that it is a process of discernment and that means sharing information, ideas, conversations and prayers with as many people as possible. If your Partnership has thus far “shared” only between priests and stewards; now would be a good time to widen the sharing. If progress is generally slow; now would be a good time to redouble your efforts and I will help if you ask me to do so.

I have been asked what should be in a Parish Partnership Plan. There are no hard and fast rules but here is a suggested list that is open to addition, alteration and amendment. Let me know your thoughts.

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/PARISH-PARTNERSHIP-PLAN-PROFORMA.pdf>

**Young People: As part of the programme of events to foster evangelisation, people came together to learn more about Youth Work. This was perhaps the most commonly mentioned area of Renewal that we should engage in; so we videoed it.**

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/12-strands-renewal/young-people/>

**Young people went to Flame 2019.** Try to find ways to let them share their experience with you. They were inspired; let them inspire you.

Charity, Justice and Social Action: **On the night of 12<sup>th</sup> April people (including me!) will be sleeping out to raise money and awareness about homelessness and housing and young people. Please spread the word and join in.** <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/diocesan-director-of-development-to-join-sponsored-sleepout-walsingham-house-at-abbotswick/>

**Vocations: Is God calling you to be a priest?** A monthly vocations group to find out more about a possible vocation to the priesthood. Talk, prayer and food. The sessions take place at St Edmund of Canterbury church, 9 Traps Hill, Loughton, IG10 1SZ. Tuesdays: 2/4; 7/5; 4/6; 2/7. Please contact Fr Mark Swires, Vocations Promoter for more information: [vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/12-strands-renewal/vocations-to-the-priesthood/>

<http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development>

The Church in Essex and East London  
working better and differently together to evangelise our diocese



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**Evangelisation:** Do you have a team in your parish that supports your Parish Priest with Pastoral Care that would benefit from some training? The **Sharing Hope in Crisis** team are offering a day for you to hear how they approach situations. This seminar is designed to help you know what to say—and what not to say—to someone facing difficulty and to compassionately share the love of Jesus Christ with those who need it most. Conference Centre, Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May from 9 am – 4.30 pm. [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sharing-hope-in-crisis-seminar-tickets-58994806053](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sharing-hope-in-crisis-seminar-tickets-58994806053) or email [adeleangel@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:adeleangel@dioceseofbrentwood.org).

**A Day of Recollection and Enrichment for Readers** on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July in Wickford, led by Dr Marian Tolley of Shrewsbury Diocese. It will cover the spiritual dimension of the ministry, including the Real Presence in the Word of God; Relationship of the Liturgy of the Word to the Liturgy of the Eucharist; Preparation; Technical aspects/difficulties of reading the Scriptures as Proclamation; Pointers to reading aloud; Using a microphone and much more. Please encourage *at least* one member of your team of readers to attend in order to deepen the understanding and exercise of this important ministry. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/day-of-reflection-enrichment-day-for-readers-2-tickets-58587437603>

**Canon Peter Connor OFS has followed up his beautiful reflection on the Mass with a personal reflection on Renewal.**

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/12-strands-renewal/christian-life-worship/>

**Pastoral Statistics:** We have presented the Mass Attendance statistics in a new way at <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/chancery/resources/> I am sorry to report that 2018 figures will show a further decline in the number of people participating in Holy Mass each weekend. This is a reminder about why our Vision Document talks far more about Renewal than Restructuring. Our joint task is to evangelise our diocese, to tend the vineyard well for future generations.

On the website you will find two documents “An Aid to Thinking About Possibilities” and “A (very) Rough Guide to Canon Law”. If your partnership has not yet read and considered these documents I would urge you to do so.

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/resources/>

**I hope Lent continues well for everyone and that the awe and wonder of the Easter Triduum will touch your hearts anew this year.**

**Steven Webb**

**Director of Development**

<http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development>

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