

From the BISHOP OF LONDON

Dear Colleague

TRAINING GOD'S PEOPLE

I would like to thank you for your support of our London Challenge 2012 Lenten Initiatives to assist the Ministry and Mission of our partner Churches in Angola and Mozambique. Over the last three years we have raised over £250,000 for education, water and children's projects.

I commend the 2011 Lent Appeal '**Training God's People**' to you. This focuses on building up the church so it can better love and serve her people.

In 2008 we raised over £100,000

As this New Year of Our Lord opens I would like to encourage you to take part in two important aspects of the life of our Diocese: the Transformative Project and Lent Course; and our Diocesan Lent Appeal **Transforming Lives... ALMA's Children**. Both arise from our commission to live out the transformative nature of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Transformative will publish its **Lent Course** for the Diocese soon. [www.london.anglican.org/transformative] This draws deeply on the rich conversations which took place during the Autumn Study Sessions and also works alongside our **Diocesan Lent Appeal**. Our dynamic partnership in the Gospel with the church in Angola and Mozambique is the outward and visible sign of the Eucharistic imperatives to care for God's creation and to be one body sharing one bread.

The Lent Appeal '**Transforming Lives .. ALMA's Children**' grounds our London Lenten journeys in the experience of our partners, whose context is so different from our own. The challenge of ministering to the young is one we all share but Angola and Mozambique have almost 50% of their population under the age of 18 and a third of these young people have had no formal education. The challenge is immense but our Lent Appeal provides us with the opportunity to be agents of transformation through the donations of our Lenten sacrifices and gifts. The Lent Card gives information on the Appeal. In addition there are reports and stories of past ALMA's Children projects, and images of whole communities transformed on the Lent Appeal website [www.london.anglican.org/lent] and the ALMA website [www.almalink.org].

I would be delighted if every church in the diocese, even those with link parishes, were able to donate one Sunday's collection in Lent to this appeal.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel.

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Richard Chartres KCVO DD FSA

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