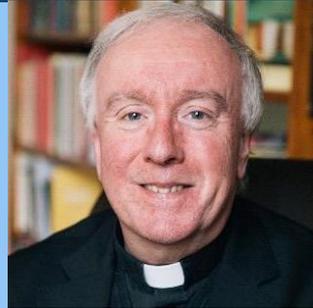




Living Our Faith Impact Report Special Edition May 2021

Dear Friends,

It is with great enthusiasm and gratitude that I share with you an overview of the *Living Our Faith* campaign and the tremendous impact that it has made on our devoted community of faith over the past decade. This initiative was a bold and exciting response to the opportunities and challenges that the Diocese of Portsmouth faced in Bringing People Closer to Jesus Christ Through His Church.



Under the leadership of Bishop Crispian Hollis, after much prayer and broad consultation, we embarked on this extraordinary undertaking to address the urgent needs across the Diocese. At the time, the current level of ministries and programmes would not be sustained without a greater wealth spring of resources and improvements. Moreover, the campaign's success would enable the maintenance and strengthening of shared priorities – clergy and vocations; laity formation; and pastoral enhancement.

I am deeply thankful to all the individuals and families for joining hands in sacrificial giving for their parishes and the wider Church. We could not have taken on such an endeavour without your support. Our faith community today is all the stronger for your generosity and commitment.

This time of year is always one of hope, renewal and anticipation of brighter days ahead as we look forward to the Summer. As the vaccine programme rolls out, this is especially so in 2021. Be assured of my prayers for the health and safety of you and your loved ones.

In Corde Iesu,

Bishop Philip Egan

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” - Ephesians 2:10

Living Our Faith
The people of the Diocese of Portsmouth



Dear Parishioners,

The benefit of *Living Our Faith* has played a significant role in the growth and spiritual enhancement of our Diocese. On behalf of the *Living Our Faith* Stewardship Committee, with the allocation of the funding now complete, we are pleased to officially close out our work.

In raising over £13 million, surpassing our initial goal by 45%, it has been both humbling and an honour to disperse this funding over the past decade. Reflecting the spirit of the Committee, we hope we have been good stewards of your kindness. Christian Stewardship teaches us that we are to receive God’s gifts graciously, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord. In this *Impact Report*, the Committee and I are delighted to provide an overview of the funding allocation and more importantly share some of the tangible outcomes.

This *Impact Report* is the culmination of many core qualities of our clergy and laity – generosity, dedication, hard work and foresight. I want to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank everyone who was involved in giving, praying, planning and volunteering. A special ‘thank you’ to the *Living Our Faith* Stewardship Members who have monitored and overseen the disbursement of funds in accordance with the original intent.

Yours in Christ,

Canon Simon Thomson
Living Our Faith Stewardship Committee Chairperson



“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace” - 1 Peter 4:10

Building God’s Kingdom

Living Our Faith focused on sustaining and strengthening core pillars – enabling vibrant faith communities, including addressing local parish needs; developing strong parish teams, involving increased lay engagement in faith formation; and ensuring support for our clergy, commencing with training for the priesthood onto assisting those in active ministry.

Initial Goal: £2,700,000
Total Raised: £2,876,702
Spending to Date: £2,193,429
Allocated in 2021: £683,273

This fund has supported clergy during their working lives ministering in parishes, schools, hospitals and prisons throughout the Diocese. It allowed us to launch a dedicated scholarship fund and continues to support our current seminarians.

Supporting Clergy & Vocations



Initial Goal: £2,700,000
Total Raised: £2,876,702
Spending to Date: £1,871,439
Allocated in 2021: £1,005,262

Funding has been used to implement specific programmes to foster parish activity. This has involved an investment in education and training to support greater involvement in the life of the Church and the evangelisation of youth.

Investing in Lay Formation



Initial Goal: £1,350,000
Total Raised: £1,438,351
Spending to Date: £818,222
Allocated in 2021: £620,129

These resources were designated to modernise, renovate, and restore numerous churches throughout the Diocese foreshadowing challenges such as the maintenance of listed buildings.

Renewing Facilities



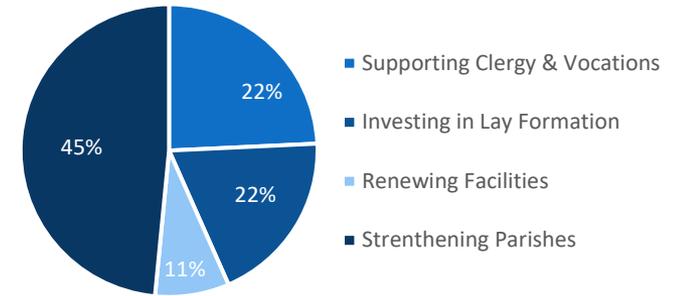
Initial Goal: £2,250,000
Total Raised: £5,840,314
Spending to Date: £4,418,845
Allocated in 2021: £1,421,469

As the backbone of the Church, our local parishes provide a place for prayer, worship, counsel and community. *Living Our Faith*, helped to fund capital projects and ministries identified by each parish.

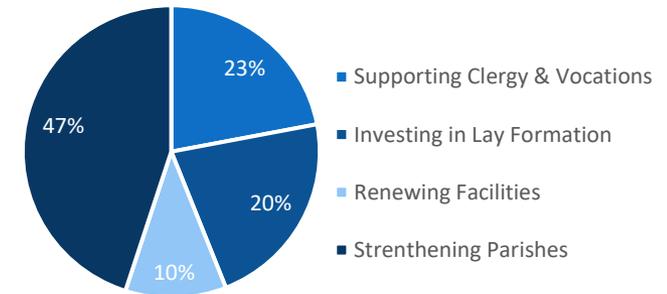
Strengthening the Parishes



Campaign Monies Raised



Campaign Monies Spent



£9,000,000

Campaign Target



£13,032,069

Actual Raised



6,497

Total number of pledges



£2,010

Average Gift

Supporting Our Clergy



Our priests have dedicated their lives to serve Jesus Christ and his followers, so, it is vital that we support their development and welfare.

Funding from *Living Our Faith* has been critical in ensuring we can continue to provide:

- Ongoing training in practical and technical skills for priests
- All clergy retreats and seminars
- Vocations to the priesthood

Ordained Priests over the last 12 years supported by *Living Our Faith*

• Fr. Paul Leonard	2009
• Fr. Pat Madden	2009
• Fr. Phillip Harris	2010
• Fr. James McAuley	2010
• Fr. John Chandler	2011
• Fr. Benjamin Theobald	2013
• Fr. Phil Carroll	2015
• Fr. Ross Bullock	2016
• Fr. Ansel D’Mello	2017
• Fr. Robert Stewart	2017
• Fr. Mohanraj Edward	2019
• Fr. Johnpromise Umeozuru	2019
• Fr. Matthew King	2020

God willing, Deacon Paul Nwune and Deacon Anthony Fyk will be ordained this July, while the fund continues to deliver on-going formation of our 12 seminarians.

Living Our Faith has also presented resources for two dedicated Promoters of Vocations who remain supporting our seminarians and advocating for the priesthood.

“A good shepherd, a pastor after God’s heart, is the greatest treasure which the good Lord can grant to a parish, and one of the most precious gifts of divine mercy” - St. John Vianney

Investing in Lay Formation



Throughout *Living Our Faith*, we have facilitated Christian evangelisation by assisting lay formation at the local pastoral area levels. Key elements of this funding include:

- Supporting the recruitment of several youth workers across the Diocese
- Delivering a range of initiatives included the *Healing Prayer and Support Group*, *Called & Gifted* and the *Echoes Catechetical Course*

Some parish appointments to highlight are:

- The Parish of St. Swithun Wells raised funds for a Pastoral Youth Officer
- St. Joseph and St. Edmund in Southampton employed a Youth Development Leader
- Portsmouth, St. Colman recruited a Pastoral Youth Worker
- North West Hants Pastoral Area secured the services of a Youth Ministry Co-Ordinator
- Our Lady & Saints of Guernsey appointed a Youth Worker

The remaining **£1,016,533** for laity formation will be invested in a number of priorities including Caritas and Youth Evangelisation. To date, 41% of this balance is already committed to supporting formation in local parishes.

“In union with all people of good will, Christians, especially the laity, are called to this task of imbuing human realities with the Gospel” - Saint John Paul II

Renewing Our Facilities

Thanks to the support of *Living Our Faith* we have been able to carry out a number of refurbishments and renovations in churches across the Diocese. This has ensured our buildings are fit for purpose and parishioners have a welcome place to pray and seek comfort.



St. Joseph, Havant (Parish Share: £184,924)

While St. Joseph directed a proportion of the monies secured to fund a part-time pastoral assistant, parishioners here also decided to use funds generously raised to support the new church build in Waterlooville and help resolve parish debt in Leigh Park.



Immaculate Conception, Liphook (Parish Share: £13,027)

Funds returned were used to resurface the car park and purchase a music machine for the choir.



St. Peter & The Winchester Martyrs (Parish Share: £828,511)

Once known as the Parish of Hampshire Downs, this community directed its share of the funding secured towards the construction of a new pastoral centre at St. Peter's Church and further improvements at each of the remaining three churches.



St. Mary, Alton (Parish Share: £197,714)

Funds raised were used to cover the roof repairs costing £350,000. While the original plan was for minor repairs to be carried out, the overwhelming success of *Living Our Faith* ensured major refurbishment of the roof was completed.



St. John Vianney, Wantage (Parish Share: £44,654)

As well as minor refurbishment to the presbytery, the parishioners of Wantage generously donated funds to the neighbouring church in Hungerford and to an overseas charity.



Sacred Heart, Ringwood (Parish Share: £50,910)

Donations were directed towards the repair and restoration of the church building. This involved encasing with a layer of insulation and rendering it overall, in addition to adding a pitched roof so the building is now waterproof.

Strengthening Our Parishes

One of the most ambitious projects to be funded by *Living Our Faith* was the new church in Waterlooville (pictured). After many years of planning, the building of a new church and parish centre started in November 2009 and was completed by June 2011. The church caters for a large and growing parish, with seating for over 350 people and the adjoining parish centre facilitates the activities of many parish and local groups.

The new church is known as “The Church of Sacred Heart and St. Peter the Apostle”, in recognition that part of the complex has been built on land formerly occupied by St. Peter’s School. Whereas the old church was set back from the street, its replacement is a landmark building with frontage on the main London Road, with the wall behind the altar visible from this busy thoroughfare. The total cost of the project was approximately £3.2 million and the parish secured £431,508 from the *Living Our Faith* campaign. The foundation stone was laid on Friday, 11 June 2010 by Bishop Crispian Hollis.

In total, 68 parishes have a balance of funds for their local needs. Of these, 57 have made an initial drawdown of monies. We look forward to sharing the remaining **£1,173,050** with these parishes to assist with the losses endured as a result of Covid-19.

“There is nothing more spacious than the church of God, because all the elect and the just of all ages comprise it” - Pope Clement XI



Committing to Stewardship

Living Our Faith was an overwhelming success and its results have supported vital needs for more than a decade. We understand future funding needs will require a co-ordinated, strategic approach. Certainly, securing voluntary contributions through on-going fundraising initiatives will be essential. In addition, we as a Diocese need to consider our longer-term planning and sustainability. In order to better equip ourselves in the future we have taken the time to listen and consult with clergy and laity, carried out an e-survey and will continue to engage our communities via an all-clergy survey in the summer. The feedback has been taken on board and we are now committing to:



Communication

Improve how we communicate with our communities, providing consistent and up to date information.



Implementing the Mission

Ensure the mission of our Diocese transcends across all parishes in realising our collective calling.



Strategic Planning

Lay the foundations for a more strategic approach to future funding needs and long-term sustained growth.



Stewardship

Guarantee parishioners are regularly updated on the impact their support is having across the Diocese.

In conversation with Heather Hauschild, Chief Operating Officer

Q. Where can parishes obtain support for their future fundraising needs, especially recovery from the pandemic?

A. We have invested in two staff members to work closely with parishes – on stabilising and increasing offertory and assisting with grant applications to trusts/foundations. In just a short period, this team has been effective – for example, securing £895,000 for parish capital projects and setting up on-line giving pages for each parish which have received £422,000 over the last 12 months.

Q. What are your plans for supporting the Laity?

A. We are absolutely committed to engaging with the laity and enhancing our offerings in adult formation (*Formation for Mission*), Youth Evangelisation (working with Universities and youth workers) and supporting the less fortunate (Caritas).

Q. How will you keep parishioners up to date with your work?

A. Stewardship is a key priority for us. This year alone, we are establishing a Fundraising & Stewardship Committee (comprised of clergy and laity) to drive activity; we are committing a staff member to work at the parish level; and my office – through regular communications – is focused on accountability and transparency with clergy and parishioners about how we intend to use donated resources, while acknowledging their support and the impact it has had.

Q. What plans do you have for property owned by the Diocese?

A. We are currently looking very carefully at all the assets we hold across the Diocese and how they are best utilised. As part of our stewardship commitment, we will provide an update later this year.

