

IN REVIEW



UPDATE FROM THE NATIONAL CHURCH INSTITUTIONS

December 2004



“What’s happening at St Paul’s is a fine example of realising the potential of church buildings”

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The Church of England has become a member of the Trade Justice Movement

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Mission takes shape

It is the fastest-selling Church report in decades. And it's not about the gender of Bishops, sexuality, membership numbers or finance.

'Mission Shaped Church', exploring 'fresh expressions of church in a changing context' has sold around 15,000 copies in 11 months and its impact is already being seen in dioceses throughout the country.

"People who previously saw themselves on the margins or doing things insignificant in the mainstream of the Church now feel they are in the centre of the Church's mission," said Revd Dr Steven Croft, Archbishops' Missioner. "There's an explosion of interest in exploring new ways of being church."

The report, from a team led by the Rt Revd Graham Cray, Bishop of Maidstone, identified a range of 'fresh expressions' of church and proposed a 'mixed economy church' to suit the present era. One size no longer fits all, it argued, illustrating a range of new models from 'alternative worship communities' to cell churches, from traditional church plants to midweek congregations.

In response, the Archbishop of Canterbury initiated a new agency, Fresh Expressions, to support and cultivate emerging expressions of church life.



Holy Communion at an 'All Souls' service hosted by Sanctus 1 in Manchester.

Picture: Ben Edson

According to Steven Croft, team leader at the new agency, the very fact that the Church has officially endorsed alternative notions of Christian community is proving hugely influential.

Café-style

In the wake of publication, several café-style churches have been set up while the number of network-focussed churches, which work with a stipendiary clergy person, has doubled to more than 20.

Once a month the Rev Philip Roderick hosts Contemplative Fire, a service for up to 80 people in a 12th century monastic chapel in a Buckinghamshire hamlet. Part of a regular sequence of local

gatherings for 'stillness and storytelling, the playful as well as the profound', services come from an 'open Catholic tradition', explained Philip, featuring procession, incense, movement, body prayer and visual icons. They "celebrate the sacrament of the present moment in the beauty of nature, liturgy and teaching", he said.

"It is an attempt to blend ancient and modern, a deep journey to meet Jesus, the one who transforms our consciousness."

Aiming at 'people who can't do traditional God language' and are put off by modern church structures, Contemplative Fire is winning unlikely converts. Philip said: "It is amazing how many people

who are not Christians are delighted that the Church of England is hosting traditions which honour the contemplative and mystical."

Another fresh expression comes with Sanctus 1, a community of some 50 people, aged between 18 and 40, who meet in the heart of the city of Manchester. Led by Ben Edson, of the Church Army, this is a church based around weekly cell groups which host discussion, film, music, all framed in an act of worship.

"Our approach is more interactive, more adult education than you find in traditional church," said Ben. "We're on an experimental journey exploring faith, worship, spirituality, friendship and lifestyle."

Once a month Sanctus meets for worship either at Sacred Trinity Church, Salford, or in Manchester Cathedral. "We are more dechurched than non-churched," said Ben. "People returning after having been bored, hurt, or generally fallen out with church, now finding a new way to be in Christian community."

More information: www.freshexpressions.org.uk

Mission Shaped Church is published by Church House Publishing, price £10.95. To buy a copy, contact 020 7898 1300 or www.chbookshop.co.uk

Our new review

Welcome to the first edition of *In Review*, a newsletter from the National Church Institutions of the Church of England.

Our aim is to keep people in touch with the activities of the Archbishops' Council, Church Commissioners, the Church of England Pensions Board and other bodies who serve the Church at national level.

In Review is being published this week in both the *Church Times* and *Church of England Newspaper*. You can also find it on the re-styled and improved Church of England website where articles from *In Review* can be 'cut and pasted' for use in parish magazines and other publications.

The new website has a wealth of information about the Church of England, with links to diocesan and parish websites, and those of numerous other Church organisations.

Both *In Review* and the website are part of the National Church Institutions' commitment to keep you informed about important activities and developments.

In Review will be produced twice a year. By replacing the former *Year in Review* annual report, it achieves significant cost savings.

More information at www.cofe.anglican.org



Website gets makeover

The Church of England website has had a facelift. Gone is the text-based approach of the 1990s-built version, replaced by an open design using more images and improved navigation around the site – including a search facility.

Much of the site's content is now grouped under four key headings:

- **Faith** – the essence of Christianity
- **Worship** – putting faith into practice
- **Life events** – milestones on the journey through life

- **About the church** – the Church and its role in society

Sponsored by Ecclesiastical Insurance, www.cofe.anglican.org features a detailed site map index, an enhanced news service, easier access to downloadable resources and a comprehensive links page. The site is now updated more regularly as staff responsible for specific areas of the Church's work can update pages directly from their desks.

Did you know?

- More than 2.6 million people go to a Church of England service on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.
- Across all Christian denominations, nearly four out of every 10 people go to a Christmas carol service.



Did you know?

- More than 1.7 million people take part in a Church of England service each month.
- Each year we conduct over 158,000 baptisms, around 60,000 marriages and blessings and about 224,000 funerals.

Church of many colours

The often untold story of the achievement of people from ethnic minorities in the Church of England was celebrated at St Aidan's Church, Leeds this autumn.

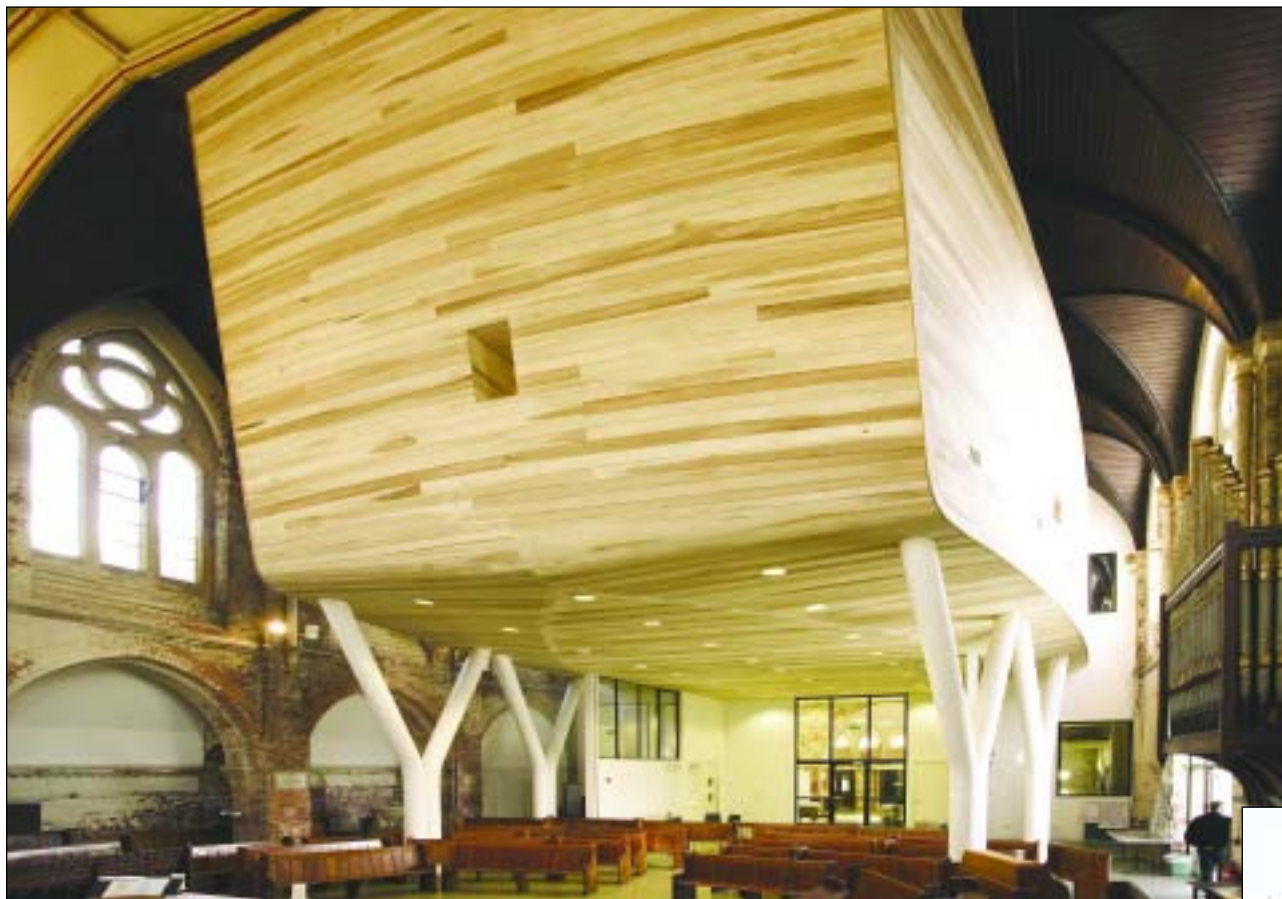
It was one of a series of educational and celebration events around the country, initiated by the diocese and supported by the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns to mark Black History Month and Racial Justice Sunday.

Over 200 people gathered at St Aidan's for a day of workshops, food, music and

worship – the centrepiece, a display focused on the participation in the church and wider British history in the last three centuries.

The Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns offers a year-round resource for materials and information for a plethora of initiatives, ranging from a visual presentation focusing on the history of justice for minority ethnic people in Britain to student projects on youth race relations.

i More information: 020 7898 1443.



Above: Ark for art's sake at St Paul's Old Ford, Bow. **Right:** St Paul's exterior. **Far right:** Children playing at the Thornbury Centre, Bradford.

Picture: Marcus Perkins
Picture: David Johnston

Building potential

Church buildings hold enormous potential as catalysts for neighbourhood regeneration, but they need the support of a wider network of partners to unlock their possibilities and sustain them for the future. That's the view of a 'green paper', *Building faith in our future*, produced by The Church's Church Heritage Forum with sponsorship from the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, and launched by the Bishop of London.

The report urges national, regional and local bodies to pay special attention to the importance of places of worship in their funding and planning decisions. It says that the cost of doubling the grants from public funds – from £10m to £20m in English Heritage grants – would cost no more than 20p per head of population per year. And it points to other

European countries such as Norway and Finland which provide far more state assistance to church repair. The achievements of volunteers in maintaining their church buildings are impressive – but they need further help.

Paula Griffiths, Director of the Church of England's Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, pointed to the landmark effect of churches in England – 16,000 buildings "literally pointing upwards". She asked: "What would a large firm give for advertising on that scale?"

Vital role

They play a vital role in the UK's physical and spiritual landscape, demonstrated by a 2003 survey which showed that more than eight out of 10 adults in the UK had visited a church or place of

worship in the previous year, and that most were happy to see local churches used for activities other than worship.

The dramatic conversion of St Paul's church in Old Ford, East London is a case in point. When the Rev Phillipa Boardman was appointed as vicar no-one could worship in the Grade II listed building because it was unsafe. "A huge groundswell of local people wanted to see this much-loved building saved at a time when so much of the East End heritage building had been cleared during the war," she recalls.

Hiring a project worker, Phillipa Boardman set about identifying local needs, which were focussed around health and leisure, and then built an ambitious network of partners, including 15 different funders (both public and private finance) as well as a range of

WIN a set of the much-praised Pocket Prayers

Pocket Prayers is a unique series of six books offering prayers in a variety of styles, covering different times and aspects of people's lives. The widely-acclaimed books, produced by Church House Publishing, include prayers for Work, Peace & Justice, for Children, for Comfort and for Teachers.



Ideal Christmas gifts, these elegantly designed hardback editions are £5.99 each. Pocket Prayers are available from all Christian bookshops and from Church House Bookshop at 31 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BN, tel 020 7898 1300 or on the web at www.chbookshop.co.uk

To enter the 'In Review' competition, please answer the three questions below – the answers can be found in the stories included in this newsletter. Email your entry to: cocomms@c-of-e.anglican.org, or write your entry on a postcard to: 'In Review', Communications, Church House, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3NZ. Entries must be received by January 4th 2005. Five winners will be drawn from entrants supplying the correct answers.

The questions:

1. Complete the report title: "Mission Shaped?"
2. When is Vocations Sunday in 2005?
3. How many people visit cathedrals each year?

Staff of the National Church Institutions and their families are not eligible to enter.

IN REVIEW

In Review is published by the Communications Unit, Church House, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3NZ, on behalf of the Archbishops' Council, the Church Commissioners and the Church of England Pensions Board. The unit can be contacted at cocomms@c-of-e.org.uk or 020 7898 1326.

Editorial: Malcolm Doney and Martin Wroe. Designed by Ems Editorial.

What's my line?

What are you doing with your life? This is one big question Vocations Sunday will pose on April 17th 2005. Traditionally the focus of vocations initiatives has been on asking congregations to consider whether they are called to one of the offices of the Church, – priest, deacon, reader or evangelist. Now the Church of England's Education and Ministry Divisions have joined forces to encourage 'ordinary' Christians to consider how God might be calling them in their everyday lives.

National Vocations Officer the Rev Stephen Ferns said the aim was to emphasise that "all of us

are being called by God – not just to the big things but the little things as well, like deciding what you're going to do with your day, which brand of coffee you're going to pick off the shelf, who to sit next to at a meal. It's to do with making decisions in tune with the spirit."

"I see vocation at the very heart of what we're about in terms of Christian discipleship," he continued. "I hope as a result, many people will explore vocation in lots of different ways, not assume it is just about ordained ministry."

"St Theresa said that Christ has no body or hands on earth now

but ours", added Joanna Cox, Lay Discipleship Adviser. She pointed out that lay Christians, through their work in local communities, employment and daily lives, have a crucial role in bringing the values of the Kingdom of God into society.

Vocations Sunday

"We hope the resources we offer for Vocations Sunday will encourage people to reflect on how they are called to use their God-given gifts and abilities to serve in the world."

Teaching is one example of this. In Lord Dearing's report on the

Top Class

Just three years after the Dearing Report recommended that the Church of England establish 100 new secondary schools, almost half have already opened or are well on the way.

In fact since the turn of the millennium, such is the jump in rolls at church schools and the arrival of new schools that the number of pupils in Church of England secondary provision has leapt by 14,000 – almost 10 per cent.

With the Church of England responsible for a quarter of all primary schools but only one in 20 schools in the secondary sector, Lord Dearing's 2001 report *The Way Ahead* recommended not only boosting provision in all schools but specifically expanding secondary provision by 100 schools within eight years.

Already, 28 new secondary schools have opened, while a further 14 have set a date. According to Chief Education Officer, Canon John Hall, in addition a further 46 'conversations' are under way on plans for further schools.

"There's been nothing like this for decades," said David Whittington, National School Development Officer. "It's the biggest expansion in Church of England educational provision since the 19th century."



"St Hild's has become a real sign of hope in the area," says head teacher Carolyn Roberts.

The background to the expansion is a prevailing political climate in which diversity of choice has become a theme of the main political parties and the popularity and demand for the distinctive ethos of Church schools is widely accepted. Not only do many Church of England schools perform well in the league tables but parents, said David Whittington, "like the ethos of a church school, that it has a moral stance, that their children are brought up by educationalists who are committed not only to teaching but also to nurturing."

Two thirds of the 42 new

secondary schools are in areas of high deprivation or schools in 'challenging circumstances'.

Carolyn Roberts, Headteacher of St Hild's in Hartlepool, has witnessed dramatic improvement since the school reopened as a Church secondary three years ago. Previously it was the weakest community secondary in the town, with a reputation as a 'sink school' and falling rolls as parents gave it a wide berth. Today it is in brand new buildings, with improving results and oversubscribed. It remains very much a 'community school' with just 12 places a year reserved for Church admission.

"The local authority and diocese created a genuine partnership in launching the new school," said Mrs Roberts. "It has become a real sign of hope in the area."

St Hild's aims to offer high quality education in a Christian context, equality of opportunity and "the expectation that we will find God at work in our school."

"A church secondary school," she says. "Can be explicit about issues of community building so we talk a lot about loving each other and developing cohesive school community, which the biblical narrative really helps children to understand."



Did you know?

- Church of England cathedrals attract 12.5 million visitors a year. York Minster, Canterbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey are all in England's top five historic visitor attractions.
- 45% of all the country's grade I listed buildings are looked after by the Church of England.
- Of our 16,000 buildings, 13,000 are listed as being of special historic interest by the government.

voluntary agencies who could help deliver an integrated programme of services. At the heart of the ambitious development was an enthusiastic congregation, keen to re-inhabit the church at the centre of their parish.

In March 2003 the £3.5 million scheme took off. Architects Matthew Lloyd and partners designed an eye-catching and innovative pod, known affectionately as 'the Ark' to house an art gallery and also developed a health and fitness centre in the roof of the 19th century building.

The scheme was completed in May 2004. It is early days but there is already a happy mix of worship, exercise and art serving a variety of local physical and spiritual needs, and soon a café which will not only serve healthy food, but provide employment and training opportunities for disabled young

people. "What's happening at St Paul's," says Paula Griffiths, "is a fine example of realising the potential of church buildings. The church must not simply ask for money on a plate. To gain partnership, we also need to ask what we can do to be more responsive to our neighbours, to engage in dialogue, to open our doors to the community."

✎ The full report is available at: www.cofe.anglican.org/about/building/faithinourfuture.pdf

Did you know?

- 510 men and women are ordained each year, on average.
- We have more than 27,000 licensed ministers, but only 10,500 of them are paid clergy.

future of church schools, *The Way Ahead*, the

Archbishop of Canterbury wrote that the church should make "a very clear acknowledgement of the teacher's work as the way a teacher responds to God's call to become herself or himself in helping others to become themselves". Canon John Hall, who heads the Church of England's Education Division, said he wanted to take this further. "We see teaching as a clear vocation to be nurtured. We hope to encourage dioceses to develop models of training and

supporting teachers whether they're in church schools or not."

Several dioceses made their own individual responses to Vocations Sunday: Ripon and Leeds organised a pilgrimage to Santiago, while Canterbury mobilised 80 preachers to spread the vocations message. Examples of diocesan initiatives will continue to be posted on the vocations website, so churches can learn from the creative ideas of others.

✎ More information: www.cofe.anglican.org/lifeevents/ministry/vocsun/

Mental health check

Churches are now better placed to offer support to people with mental health problems and tackle some of the causes of mental distress among parishioners. This is all thanks to a new guide published in partnership with the charity 'mentality'. *Promoting Mental Health: a resource for spiritual and pastoral care*, was commissioned by the Church of England's Mission and Public Affairs Council and the National Institute for Mental Health in England.

✎ More information at www.cofe.anglican.org or www.mentalitynet.org.uk

Packed agenda set for February Synod

February's General Synod is likely to have a packed programme with agenda items including the Report, 'Women Bishops in the Church of England?'; the Windsor Report on the way forward for the worldwide Anglican Communion; the McClean Report on clergy terms and conditions; and a debate on the Environment. The Synod is being held in London from February 14th to 18th.

Missionary ordinands wanted

The Church of England wants the next generation of ordained ministers to demonstrate a concern for mission and experience in spreading the Good News. From next year it will be asking candidates for selection to 'demonstrate an awareness of both the missionary impulse and the missionary context of their potential ministry'.

'Realising the vision'

The vital role of the Church Commissioners in serving the Church of England was stressed by the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams in an address to mark the 300th anniversary of Queen Anne's Bounty, the endowment made in 1704 that gave the Church a new financial basis.

He said: "The Church Commissioners are the people to whom the particular ministry has been given of realising the vision that the Church has of its future."

Speaking at a service in Westminster Abbey, the Archbishop said that the way the Church allocated its resources demonstrated "where its heart is" and that the Church needed to look at how resources could be "put at the service of new things", including seed money for mission initiatives.

Dr Williams also described the rectifying of injustice between rich and poor communities in the Church as "a contemporary priority". He

said: "We cannot pretend to be living as the Body of Christ if we do not constantly scrutinise what we have that can and should be at the service of others less visibly resourced – whether this is money, personnel or skill."

He continued: "These are some of the hopes and concerns that are stirring our Church; these are also the hopes and visions that the Commissioners are eager to serve in honest partnership with their brothers and sisters."

The full text of the Archbishop's address is at www.archbishopofcanterbury.org

• LATEST figures from the Church Commissioners show a 3.4 per cent increase in the value of their UK shares portfolio – outperforming the stock exchange by half a per cent. Good performance in the property market has also continued. The figures cover the three months up to the end of September, as given in the Commissioners' latest quarterly report.

Youth Council holds first meeting

The first meeting of the Church of England Youth Council was held in November. The weekend meeting was attended by members from across the country, who

discussed a range of subjects. CEYC is a platform for young people in the Church of England.

More information at www.ceyc.org



Demonstrators gather in Brighton, addressed by the Rt Rev John Sentamu (inset, centre). Main picture: Christian Aid

Together for justice

The Church of England has become a member of the Trade Justice Movement. This follows a vote at the General Synod meeting in York last summer and comes ahead of what many believe will be a defining year in relations between the richest and poorest countries of the globe.

"With the British Government chairing the G8 summit and the EU presidency in 2005, there's a sense that we are at a tipping point where it might yet become possible to develop a trading system that allows developing countries to remove trade barriers at a pace and in a way that lies within their own development plans," said the Rt Rev Tom Butler, Bishop of Southwark and vice-chair, public affairs, of the

Mission and Public Affairs Council.

In September the Bishop of Birmingham, the Rt Rev John Sentamu, addressed a demonstration of 5,000 in Brighton, at the start of the Labour Party Conference, describing current trade policy as "a type of imperialism". He called on the Government to make three pledges.

"The UK Government should fight to ensure that governments, especially in poor countries, can choose the best solutions to end poverty and protect the environment. These will not always be free trade policies.

"The UK Government should also end export subsidies that damage the livelihoods of poor communities around the

world. The UK Government should further make laws that stop big businesses from profiting from the poverty of people and the environment. Right relationships are vitally important and not just the right price."

Formed in 2000, the goal of the Trade Justice Movement is fundamental change to the rules and institutions which govern international trade. Comprised of more than 50 organisations – aid agencies, environment and human rights campaigns, fairtrade organisations, faith and consumer groups – campaigners argue that global trading rules must be weighted to benefit poor people and the environment.

More details at: www.tjm.org.uk

Who's Who of Church of England National Institutions

General Synod

The 'parliament' of the Church of England.
www.cofe.anglican.org/about/gensynod

General Synod

(Staff and Members)
www.cofe.anglican.org/about/gensynod/staffmembers

House of Bishops

Responsible for doctrine and liturgy, Episcopal authority and leadership.
www.cofe.anglican.org/about/gensynod/staffmembers

The Archbishops' Council

Co-ordinates ministry, mission, education and buildings.
www.cofe.anglican.org/about/archbishopsCouncil

Lambeth Palace and Bishopthorpe Palace

The offices of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.
www.archbishopcanterbury.org
www.bishopthorpepalace.co.uk

The Church Commissioners

Manage stock market and property assets for the Church
www.cofe.anglican.org/about/churchcommissioners

Church of England Pensions Board

Trustees of pensions and discretionary funds.
www.cofe.anglican.org/about/cepb

The National Society for Promoting Religious Education

Supports the Church's role in national Christian education.
www.natsoc.org.uk

Church House Publishing

Official publisher of the Church of England
www.chpublishing.co.uk

Other useful links

Anglican Communion
www.anglicancommunion.org

Church wardens and church buildings
www.churchcare.co.uk

Communications training
www.commstraining.cofe.anglican.org

C of E Gazette and e-magazine
www.gazette.cofe.anglican.org

Anglican religious communities
www.orders.anglican.org

Hospital Chaplaincies Council
www.nhs-chaplaincy-spiritualcare.org.uk

Retirement homes being modernised

Residents are settling into their new retirement home at Lytham St Annes, Lancashire. Fosbrooke House is one of seven supported housing schemes and a nursing home owned and managed by the Church of England Pensions Board. Able to accommodate 35 residents, it is purpose-built, offering 27 single and four double self-contained flats, with a communal dining room, library and chapel. Many of the flats have spectacular views over the Ribble Estuary.

The newly-appointed Secretary of the Pensions Board, Shaun Farrell explained:

"The redevelopment of Fosbrooke House is part of an ongoing programme being carried out by the Board to



improve and modernise the facilities available at our supported housing developments so that we can better meet the long term care needs of our residents. It has been very rewarding to hear how happy the new residents are with their new surroundings."

• There are still places available at Fosbrooke House. More information: Tracy Wood, 020 7898 1837.