



We can't do everything



We must do what we do well

An important priority is to clarify what we know we are good at and concentrate on that as our distinctive contribution alongside all the other denominations and Christian organisations.

Our 'Olympic lens' must focus on ways to maximise God's great mission of love to the world. Some initiatives can be planned six months before the Games. Most partnership projects will need to be planned now if they are to be effective in the summer of 2012.

I commend this once in a lifetime opportunity for our engagement in mission and ministry.



The Rt Revd David Hawkins  
The Bishop of Barking  
Line Manager to Olympics Coordinator



# Games to inspire change?



The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London provide a once in a lifetime opportunity for churches to engage with an event of major significance and celebration. What follows are some thoughts on the 'Why?' as well as the 'How?' of engaging with the Games.

Our Anglican contribution to the 2012 Games will stem from our long history of incarnational ministry and leadership in every community of the country.

### Why should churches engage with the Olympics?

Values the church can celebrate

The 'Olympic Lens': A focus for ministry and mission

Service and hospitality

Interfaith relations and Church unity

Prayer for our communities and nation

- Eight out of ten people normally watch the Olympics on TV but it could be nine out of ten with the Games being held in London. Whichever Diocese you are from the Games will be as close as the nearest TV set.
- As an incarnational and missionary church Anglicans need to be part of this national celebration. We need to ensure that no local church looks back after the Games and says: 'We could have done something with that but missed the chance!'

### How do we use the Games as part of our ministry, mission and evangelism?

Appoint chaplains to Sports Clubs

Set up an Olympics Diocesan Focus Group

The Olympic Truce

Make contact with Olympic Teams through diocesan and parish overseas links

Live sites, sports dinners, Schools Olympics

Cultural events

Local festivals, street parties, holiday clubs

- We are well served by Canon Duncan Green, full-time Church of England Olympics and Paralympics Co-ordinator appointed in 2007. He works closely with the London Organising Committee as their Faith Adviser and is on the More than Gold executive.
- More Than Gold has years of experience in delivering ecumenical ministries at Olympic Games and can offer training in all aspects of outreach for the Games period. We are represented in the House of Lords, by the Bishop of London and the More Than Gold Chair of Trustees Lord Brian Mawhinney.



### For more information

[www.olympics.churchofengland.org](http://www.olympics.churchofengland.org) (including an expanded version of this leaflet)  
[www.morethangold.org.uk](http://www.morethangold.org.uk)  
[www.london2012.com](http://www.london2012.com)

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. *1 Corinthians 9: 24 – 27*

