



A rich diversity

Being a large conurbation, rather than a single entity, perceptions can be skewed on the size of minority ethnic communities. Since the last war, many people of Asian, African and Caribbean origin have settled in Manchester and the surrounding towns.

Manchester diocese has a larger number of Muslims than Bradford and the largest Jewish population outside London, alongside significant Hindu and Sikh communities. Some demand is building up for separate Muslim-aided schools and there are already a number of Jewish schools (both aided and private). The diocese has a very large Chinese community and significant east European communities.

The impact of asylum seekers in the past two years has presented a major challenge to both local authorities and the churches. The major sub-regional ecumenical body is Churches Together in Greater Manchester.

A unique social balance

The diocese contains a social balance unlike that of any other English diocese. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 shows that it contains more small areas included within the most deprived 10% nationally than any other diocese. Approximately 28.5% of its population lives in these neighbourhoods. 5% of the diocesan population, concentrated mainly but not exclusively in North and East Manchester, is among the most deprived 1% in England. The latest statistics show a diocesan electoral role of 36,000 and the usual weekly attendance is 37,700.



Running the Race - passing the baton of faith

In 2006 the Bishop of Manchester began a tour of every parish in his diocese, a journey that will take over three years to complete. On the marathon, the Commonwealth baton will accompany him, symbolising the journey of faith and the passing on of great truths. The baton also serves to point towards the 2012 Olympic Games.

Where are we?

The Diocese of Manchester is the Church of England in Bolton, Bury, Leigh, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Rossendale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford. Most of these towns were historically centres of the textile industry and each maintains its own individual character and separate identity. As such, there are probably 50 to 60 communities that feel themselves to be distinct from one another.

