

## **The Church's Built Heritage**

This debate introduced by the Bishop of London resulted from a private members motion and a Lincoln Diocesan Motion supporting the report *Building Faith in Our Future*. It called for greater understanding of the contribution church buildings make to society beyond the worshipping community and for greater partnership in supporting them for the future. Grants from English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund have remained static for several years (therefore declining in real terms). Last year the Royal Opera House received £23 million from public funds while 16,000 places of worship shared around £25 million! We heard that in a number of European countries where the church is disestablished their governments pay for the upkeep of the buildings. The Church Heritage Forum is now promoting a national campaign to target decision makers in Government and other relevant audiences.

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## **Hospital Health Care Chaplaincy**

This debate on Wednesday afternoon was introduced by the Bishop of St Albans. We heard that the average time spent by an in-patient in hospital in the NHS was 3 days; this impacts on staff, relationships come under strain, there is demand for speed and efficiency and for more care in the community. When we read heart-rending stories in the newspapers of people not being able to receive specialist treatments because of finance it is worth remembering that there has always been rationing and more money for one type of treatment will mean less for another. Hospital chaplains are a tiny proportion of total NHS staff but they have access throughout the service & to all parts of the hospital. We heard affirming stories from lay and ordained chaplains as well as from hospital personnel of the valuable contribution that chaplains play in the healing process and how their role is recognised and valued by staff as well as patients. There was a request that chaplains should sit on Ethical committees which decide life and death issues. The debate encouraged the dialogue between the healthcare chaplaincy and the wider Church and also requested that the Government, NHS trusts etc ensure the continuing and adequate provision of chaplaincy and spiritual care.

## FRINGE MEETING

I attended the launch of the CPAS course on *Growing Leaders*. Although leadership is a proven factor in growing healthy churches, many struggle to find effective leaders. This pack and training days is designed to help parishes find and develop leaders.

Further details from [www.cpas.org.uk/leadership](http://www.cpas.org.uk/leadership) .