

Alpha cleric's attack

One of the Church of England's most influential clergymen has attacked his own diocese over plans to sell a church to a beauty products magnate. The Rev Nicky Gumbel, who as originator of the Alpha programme has brought in millions of new believers, said he had offered to buy St Mark's Church, in Mayfair, Central London, but the diocese is due to confirm its sale to George Hammer next week.