

Anchor providing home and hope to help rebuild lives

Tom Lomax

A Catholic homelessness charity has been hailed for giving homeless people a home and the hope to rebuild their lives.

The comment was made by Mgr John Armitage, rector of Walsingham, as Caritas Anchor House marked the opening of its new building, which includes 25 studio flats to ease the transition into independent living for those who have experienced homelessness.

The flats in east London form part of the charity's Home and Hope Appeal, which has also seen the construction of facilities which will extend their ability to offer services to the local community, as well as the residents who now call Caritas Anchor House home.

Launched in 2011 with a £15.3 million funding target, the appeal

has so far raised £12.8 million.

The charity opened in 1962 as a seafarer's mission, but when the docks closed it was transformed into a facility for homeless people.

Mgr Armitage, who also chairs the charity's trustees, said: "Caritas Anchor House is a symbol of the commitment of the Church and other charitable bodies to address the ever-growing crisis regarding the provision of homes for ordinary people and the tragedy of homelessness that we face every day.

"To accomplish what we have, in what has been the most challenging of financial times for our country, has been nothing short of miraculous. The generosity in time and the determination of those who have supported our Home and Hope Appeal has shown us that it is possible to create new and innovative ways to address social need."

