

DIOCESAN SYNOD

Title: **BISHOP'S COUNCIL, DIOCESAN MISSION &
PASTORAL COMMITTEE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
REPORT**

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Date: **18 NOVEMBER 2017**

This paper summarises the business of the Bishop's Council since the previous meeting of the Synod.

July 2017

Bishop's Council

- Received the independent audit of safeguarding in the Diocese of Chelmsford and agreed a formal response (both to be published on the website)
- Appointed Dame Kate Barker as independent Chair of the Mutual Support Review Panel
- Agreed proposals to bring '*the month*' to a close and to establish a new printed publication speaking to our discipleship priority alongside further investment in digital media
- Received an update on the Refugees work and formally thanked Martin Mitchell for his work prior to his move out of the diocese
- Considered the results of a members' skills self-audit and possible next steps

DMPC

- Approved consultations on the pastoral reorganisations and church closures which would be necessary to facilitate the Newham deanery's proposals for redevelopment/re-equipping of certain churches
- Approved consultation on sale of part of a closed churchyard
- Agreed to revoke the Bishop's Mission Order for the Deeper Network Church, where the ministry will be taken forward through the local church rather than as a separate BMO church
- Endorsed the grant of a new BMO to 'Crossway', a church plant based in Stratford

Finance Committee

- Approved the Annual Return to the Charity Commission
- Noted and agreed further developments for the management of the St Mark's Centre, Beckton
- Discussed the positive progress on Sparrows Childcare which includes 'Good' Ofsted ratings at all three settings and improved financial performance
- Reviewed the implications of the new Criminal Finances Act 2017
- Reviewed financial performance to the end of Q2

October 2017**Bishop's Council**

- Endorsed the commencement of the appointment process to the See of Bradwell,
- Approved (subject to some comments for further development) a proposal for a 'Youth Synod' as part of the youth strategy agreed by Synod.
- Approved the appointment of a new local authority representative to the DAC.

DMPC

- Approved the proposal to begin the statutory consultations on a BMO for Beaulieu – a large housing development north of Chelmsford which crosses a number of parish boundaries,
- Approved a proposal to sell the closed church of All Saints in Grays,
- Considered, but rejected a specific proposal for interim ministry.

Finance Committee

- Approved revisions to the Asset Management and Investment Policy,
- Approved clergy houses purchases at Newham and Epping,
- Discussed the actuarial valuation of the Church Workers Defined Benefits Pension Scheme and agreed next steps
- Gave conditional approval (as custodian trustee) for a development scheme at Holy Cross Hornchurch.
- Approved and adopted a Conflict of Interest Policy to apply to the Board of Finance and other diocesan committees.

Synod is asked to NOTE the report.