

## DIOCESAN SYNOD

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

Author: **PASTORAL SECRETARY**

Date: **14 NOVEMBER 2015**

---

The Bishop's Council met in July and October. A summary of the main items from each of the business meetings since the June Synod are as follows:

### **29 July 2015**

#### **Bishop's Council**

- Discussed a paper entitled '*Embedding Evangelism in diocesan culture*'
- Approved a new Unit Development Funding stream within the Mission Opportunity Fund
- Appointed Canon Dr Susan Atkin to the Cathedral Chapter for a further term

#### **DMPC**

- Endorsed proposals for three pastoral schemes
- Received an update on closed churches and approved in principle a proposal for partial demolition of the tower at North Benfleet

#### **Finance Committee**

- Agreed a 1.5% increase in stipends from 1 April 2016 for the budget
- Approved the Charity Commission Annual Return
- Approved an updated Reserves Policy
- Approved purchase of an investment property for the DBE to further the work of one of the partner Academy Trusts
- Agreed to dissolve the Budget Committee and transfer its functions to the Finance Executive

### **21 October 2015**

#### **Bishop's Council**

- Noted the draft new Transforming Presence document which had been discussed as part of a workshop with Area Deans and Lay Chairs prior to the meeting,
- Noted a report on the appointment of the next Archdeacon of Chelmsford, including the members of the Bishop's Advisory Group,
- Noted a report from the Archdeacon of Southend on the CMEAC item for the November Synod,

- Noted guidance note for the arrangements under the House of Bishop's Declaration on the ministry of Bishops and Priest,
- Amended the membership of the Share Review Group to handle the transition across the triennium,
- Appointed Richard Seymour and John Foster to the Cathedral Chapter.

**DMPC** – no meeting

**Finance Committee**

- Noted a report on the Finance Committee decisions made over the triennium,
- Agreed to recommend the draft 2016 budget to Diocesan Synod,
- Approved the continuation of the mortgage strategy to meet 2016 curate housing needs,
- Agreed to buy out a PCC equity share in a benefice house and sell a plot of adjoining land to the PCC for a car park,
- Approved phase 2 of the Energy Investment Project – installation of solar panels on up to 37 additional parsonages.

Members are asked to NOTE the report.