This paper summarises the business of the Bishop’s Council since the March meeting of the Synod. In addition to the usual report, Statutory reports including the annual report of the DMPC and the Diocesan Advisory Committee can be found in the appendix to this paper.

May 2019

Bishop’s Council
- Approved amendments to the Diocesan Bullying and Harassment Policy ‘Getting on Together’.
- Noted an update on the diocesan organisational review.
- Received an update on minor revisions to the Diocesan Authorisation Scheme for children, families and youth workers.

DMPC
- Agreed to continue negotiations on a new lease at Becontree St Peter.
- Noted the Diocesan Synod motion regarding Mission and Ministry Units and requested AMPCs consider their timetables at their June meetings so as to meet the deadlines within this motion.

Finance Committee
- Approved further expenditure on the Barking Area Churches Development Project to continue work on the potential redevelopment of All Saints Forest Gate.
- Agreed to recommend proposals for the 2020 budget to the Diocesan Synod.
- Approved proposals for the improvement of share scheme process for 2020.
- Approved the Annual Report and Accounts for 2018.
- Approved a proposal to underwrite the sale of two properties in the parish of Walthamstow to support the redevelopment project at St Mary’s Church.
- Approved an appointment to the Investment Committee.
- Approved proposals for eight house purchases for curates and church plants.
- Approved a resolution on a further mortgage agreement with Natwest to support the purchase of the above houses.
- Approved the addition of a further signatory to the CDBF bank mandate.

Synod is asked to NOTE this report.
APPENDIX: ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE DIOCESAN MISSION & PASTORAL COMMITTEE

The Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee is a representative body of clergy and laity, which is responsible for keeping the arrangements for pastoral care in the diocese under review and making recommendations to the Diocesan Bishop. It is assisted in this by three Area Committees who give more detailed consideration to their respective Areas.

Alongside its statutory duties, the DMPC and AMPCs have considered a wide range of issues impacting on mission and ministry in the Dioceses such as, housing developments, fresh expressions of church, church planting and interim ministry. AMPCs also have the ability to make small grants toward mission initiatives and to support parishes with costs toward feasibility studies for building works.

Mission and Ministry Units (MMUs)
The Diocesan strategy gives each AMPC the responsibility of approving each MMU prior to commissioning. At Area meetings each Deanery provides updates on any changes, challenges and successes and shared in the mutual learning process. During 2018 eight MMUs were formally recognised by their respective Area sub committees. These were:

Colchester:
- Harwich Deanery Mission and Ministry Partnership
- Colchester Deanery (East) Partnership in Mission & Ministry
- Witham and Villages with Hatfield Peverel & Ulting (now known as Pilgrim Rivers)
- Priory Parishes
- Coastal Mission and Ministry Unit

Barking:
- West Roding Mission Partnership
- Epping Forest North
- Epping Forest South

In 2018 the AMPCs also had their first experience of considering applications from MMUs to the Mutual Support Fund. A total of 13 MMUs took part in this and a lot was learnt in how such applications can be considered. This was fed back into the Mutual Support Fund process and will improve it for future years.

Pastoral Schemes and Orders
Pastoral Schemes and Orders are legal documents drawn up under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 to effect changes in the pastoral arrangements of benefices and parishes.

One Pastoral Order was completed in 2018. This terminated the Group Ministry comprising the benefices of Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre, the benefice of Danbury, the benefice of Sandon, benefice of Little Baddow, the benefice of Holy Trinity South Woodham Ferrers and the benefice of East Hanningfield (known as the Chelmer Crouch Group Ministry).

Closed Churches
The DMPC has oversight of consecrated church buildings no longer in use and finding suitable alternative uses. In relation to churches closed for worship the following are highlights from the year:

DS(2019)06
The Non-Statutory Public Inquiry for St Peter’s Church in Birch was discontinued and proposals for a residential conversion were submitted to the local authority for consideration through the planning procedure.

The Pastoral Scheme authorising sale of All Saints in Grays to the Kingsway International Christian Centre for worship use was completed.

The process to close Holy Trinity in Abridge continued.

Consultation on a new lease for St Peter’s Becontree began.

The sale of All Saints in Sutton was completed.

**Bishop’s Mission Orders (BMOs)**

The DMPC considers proposals relating to the Bishop’s power to make Orders for certain mission initiatives in the Diocese.

The DMPC agreed the grant a BMO for a Church plant on the Beaulieu development in Chelmsford known as St Francis’ Community Church.

**Suspension of the right of presentation**

The Area sub-committees are responsible for monitoring suspensions and restrictions of presentation in their respective areas. Throughout the year the Area Committees endorsed proposals from the Deaneries for:

- 8 suspensions for a further period,
- 8 new suspensions,
- 8 suspension lifted or allowed to lapse,

Full details on the benefices in the diocese can be found on the diocesan website at: [http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/committees/mission-pastoral-committee](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/committees/mission-pastoral-committee)

A full list of the Committee and Area sub-committee memberships can be found at: [http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/directory/diocesan-synod-and-committee-members](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/directory/diocesan-synod-and-committee-members)

Nathan Whitehead
Pastoral Secretary

**ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Once again, the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) had a busy year dealing with some 231 applications for Faculty permission spread over nine meetings. In addition, the Archdeacon’s, all of whom are full members of the committee, dealt with 134 written notices under the List B procedures introduced in The Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015. The DAC deals with other general enquiries and related matters at its meeting and these totalled 177. These include requests for site visits (these are undertaken by a sub-committee made up of committee members) totalling 60. The DAC is keen to offer its advice to parishes wherever possible and especially where a parish is considering a major scheme of work such as a re-ordering. Members of the committee are regular visitors to churches and their experience within the diocese and elsewhere enables them to offer advice based upon a wide range of examples which can help parishes define their options. Where possible, the sub-committee will endeavour to suggest other churches that could be visited where similar works have been undertaken so that parish representatives might visit and share experiences.
In July, the members of the committee enjoyed a day visiting churches, this time in the Archdeaconry of West Ham, and once again they were joined by a party of curates in training to give them an insight into how the Faculty Jurisdiction system works on the ground. Four churches were visited – Ilford St Margaret, Wanstead St Mary, Woodfords Wells All Saints and Walthamstow St Peter in the Forest – which enabled the touring party to see for themselves churches which have either successfully completed a project or are considering how their churches might best be adapted for the needs of the parishioners and the wider community. We were fortunate to be accompanied by the Diocesan Chancellor, Mr George Pullman QC, who gave some valuable insights into the finer points of the workings of the Faculty Jurisdiction system.

2018 saw a number of comings and goings amongst the membership of the committee. Members were saddened to learn of the death of its Honorary Structural Engineer, Mr Brian Morton, who has given valuable advice to parishes and the committee over many years. His practical, common-sense advice will be greatly missed but the committee was pleased to welcome his son, Ed Morton, who has agreed to take on the appointment in Brian’s place. Mike Bundock has been the committee’s clocks advisor for some years but he stepped down and was replaced by Ian Coote MBHI who runs a successful business within the diocese which specialises in the care and repair of antique clocks. The committee was also saddened to say goodbye to Jim Laws, its honorary lighting adviser, after a brief spell in the role to which he brought immense practical experience of lighting both for the stage and for worship but we were pleased to welcome Benson Lau as Jim’s replacement. Benson is a Chartered Architect and is a Reader at The University of Westminster specialising in environmental design and has made a study of the lighting of Le Corbusier’s seminal Ronchamp Chapel and other sacred spaces. We were also pleased to welcome Barry Larcombe to the DAC honorary consultancy team to give advice on the design and installation of audio visual systems. Such systems are becoming increasingly common within churches and Barry’s expertise will doubtless be a valuable addition to the DAC’s advisory role. Finally, John Woodcock, a practicing architect with considerable buildings conservation experience, resigned from the in October because of pressure of work but we were pleased to welcome Hilary Brightman to the team. Her experience in the care and repair and adaptation of historic buildings is a valuable addition to the committee.

Finally, the committee continued to anticipate the introduction of the On Line Faculty System. Its introduction has been piloted by 4 parishes in the diocese and the committee has already benefited from the introduction of digital agenda which enables members to see all case papers prior to the DAC meetings. However, full introduction of the system has yet to take place although it is hoped to be up and running during the course of 2019.

Malcolm Woods,
DAC Chair