DIOCESAN SYNOD

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

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This paper summarises the business of the Bishop’s Council since the report circulated for the cancelled meeting of the March 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 2020
Bishop’s Council

- Appointed Lorna Quinn to fill a casual vacancy on the Cathedral Chapter.
- Received an update on the process to fill the See of Chelmsford from the Chair of the Vacancy in See Committee, Canon Robert Hammond.

DMPC

- Approved the proposal to commence formal consultation for the union of the parish of High Laver with Magdalen Laver and Little Laver with the parish of Matching.
- Approved the suspension of the right of presentation of the benefice of Chelmsford St Andrew, the benefice of Althorne and North Fambridge and the benefice of Cold Norton with Stow Maries.
- Approved a proposal that formal consultations with statutory interested parties continue during the COVID 19 lockdown subject to case by case assessments.

Finance Committee

- Approved the 2019 Annual Report and Accounts and the signing of the Letter of Representation.
- Approved measures to ensure financial resilience of the CDBF following the impact of the COVID 19 situation.
- Approved the formation of a Finance Task Group to implement the aforementioned measures, subject to amendments to the proposal.

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 2019 four MMUs were formally recognised by their respective Area sub committees. These were:

Barking:
- Barkingside and Bridge Churches Partnership in Mission and Ministry
- Ilford Mission and Ministry Unit
- St Andrew’s Higham Hill, St Anne’s Chingford and St Edmund’s Chingford

Bradwell:
- Canvey Island

In 2019 the AMPCs also continued learning in their consideration applications from MMUs to the Mutual Support Fund. A total of eight MMUs submitted applications for the AMPCs to consider. As last year, the learning from this process was fed back in to the Mutual Support Fund process.

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.

Pastoral Schemes and Orders were brought in to effect in 2019 for the following contexts:

- Creation of the new Vale of Roding benefice and Team Ministry – union of the former benefice of Chigwell and Chigwell Row with the benefice of Lambourne with Abridge and Stapleford Abbots.
- Creation of the new Roach Parishes Team Ministry – union of the former benefice of Barling Magna with Little Wakering, the benefice of Great Wakering with Foulness and the benefice of Rochford and Sutton with Shopland.
- The amendment of the parish boundary between the parish of Grays North and and the parish of Chadwell St Mary.
- The removal of the legal effects of consecration of part of the churchyard around the former church of St Michael in Latchingdon in advance of disposal to the owner of the former church.
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:

- The sale of the closed church of All Saints in Grays to Kingsway International Christian Centre.
- The closure of Holy Trinity in Abridge for regular public worship and commencement of the use seeking period.
- The commencement of the formal consultation for the closure of St Mary the Virgin in Little Wakering.
- The commencement of the formal consultation for the closure of St Mary in Sturmer.
- The commencement of the formal consultation for the closure of All Saints in Forest Gate to enable redevelopment and re-provision of a new church building.

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.

During the year the DMPC agreed an extension for the BMO for the Diocese of Chelmsford Deaf 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:

- 38 suspensions for a further period,
- 12 new suspensions,
- 7 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

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

Nathan Whitehead
Head of Service Delivery, Secretary to the DMPC and AMPCs
Despite the introduction of the A and B List system of authorising works to parish churches, the DAC’s workload during 2019 hardly changed. During the course of its nine meetings, it considered 232 applications – one more than the previous year! – whilst the Archdeacons issued 164 written notices – thirty more than the previous year – authorising works under the auspices of List B of The Faculty Jurisdiction Rules. In addition the Committee dealt with a number of other matters, mostly requests for advice, in relation to a further 159 cases. Finally the DAC continued to encourage parishes to request site visits to discuss emerging proposals for works and potential re-orderings. In total, members of the Committee attended 56 such site visits, slightly fewer that the previous year. The Committee sees these site visits as a vital part of its work and is keen to encourage parishes to seek its advice at the earliest opportunity, especially where significant works of re-ordering are under consideration.

Members bring to the process a wide variety of skills in the care and repair of parish churches together a great deal of experience from previous cases which may well inform parishes in the best way of realising their ambitions. This advice comes at no charge to parishes of course!

Members rarely get the opportunity to see works once they are completed which is one of the reasons that it welcomes the opportunity each year to undertake a day tour of completed projects. Over recent years, members have been joined by a number of curates in training which presents an ideal opportunity for them to gain an understanding of the Faculty Jurisdiction process. We continued to offer this opportunity in 2019 and, once again, we were also joined by the Chancellor of the Diocese, The Worshipful George Pullman QC. The assembled party undertook a tour that encompassed four churches in the Archdeaconry of Southend. Our thanks go to Archdeacon Mike Lodge and his PA, Linda Thornton, for making the necessary arrangements.

In the way of these things, there were a number of comings and goings during 2019. Following the retirement of Annette Cooper as Archdeacon of Colchester, we welcomed Ruth Patten to the Committee. Archdeacon Ruth is no stranger to the diocese having begun her ministry as a curate at Witham before becoming priest in charge at Great Dunmow. The other new archdeacon to join the committee last year following the elevation of John Perumbalath to the post of Bishop of Bradwell, was Chris Burke who filled the vacant post of Archdeacon of Barking. Chris joined us from the Diocese of York. One further appointment was made to the Committee. Dr Jess Tipper had to step down as the Diocesan Archaeological Adviser due to work commitments but we were delighted to secure the services of Deborah – ‘Debbie’ – Priddy following her retirement from Historic England. Having been a member of Historic England’s East of England Team for many years, Debbie brings to the committee a wealth of experience and knowledge of the archaeology of the county of Essex.

2019 also saw the running of the Diocese’s Design Awards scheme. First instituted in 1999 and now run bi-annually, this year’s scheme attracted just seven entries, three of which were awarded a Highly Commended certificate including the handsome new south porch, neatly incorporating a much needed toilet facility, at St John’s Church, Layer de le Haye and an exquisite set of silver candlesticks for use in the Church of St Alban at Romford.

Malcolm Woods,
DAC Chair