This paper summarises the business of the Bishop’s Council since the June meeting of the Synod.

July 2019
Bishop’s Council
- Received a verbal update on the Finance Working Group,
- Received a verbal update on the progress of children, youth and families steering group,
- Approved the appointment of Michelle Tackie to the Bradwell Area Mission and Pastoral Committee and Joy Moon to the Barking Area Mission and Pastoral Committee,
- Approved the appointment of Brian Smith to the Guy Harlings Trust.
- Discussed a proposal for delegated authority to decide on limited compensation payments in some safeguarding cases.
- Approved the proposal to draw up an instrument to delegate episcopal functions in Clergy Discipline Measure cases.

DMPC
- Approved the commencement of formal consultations regarding:
  - the merger of the parish of Bobbingworth and the parish of Morton,
  - the proposal to amend the parish boundary between the parish of Grays North and the parish of Chadwell St Mary,
  - the unification of Chelmsford North and Chelmsford South Deaneries,
  - the merger of the parish of Great Chesterford and the parish of Little Chesterford,
  - the closure of St Mary the Virgin Little Wakering.
- Approved the proposal to commence with the process of the closure and demolition of All Saints Church, Forest Gate as part of the Barking Area Churches Development Project.
- Approved suspensions or further suspensions of the right of presentation for the benefices of:
  - Great and Little Leihgs and Little Waltham
  - Dengie with Asheldham
  - Tillingham
  - East Springfield
  - Shrub End
• Prittlewell St Luke
• Downham with South Hanningfield and Ramsden Bellhouse
• Approved proposals for Interim Ministry in the benefice of High Ongar with Norton Mandeville and the benefice of Shrub End.
• Approved the extension of the BMO for the Diocese of Chelmsford Deaf Church.

Finance Committee
• Received an update on the parish loan for Meadgate.
• Approved return to the Charity Commission.
• Approved the decision to dispose of Asheldham Centre (a closed church building), giving first refusal to the current centre managers.
• Discussed a proposal for new terms of reference for the LOB Council.

October 2019
Bishop’s Council
• Approved the proposal ‘moving from subsidy to sustainability’ and recommended its adoption by the Diocesan Synod.
• Approved the election formula for use in the 2020 Deanery Synod elections.
• Approved a further loan to St Mark’s College Audley End.
• Noted work on preparations for a no deal Brexit.
• Approved the appointment of the Revd Dr Katie Miller to the Barking Area Mission and Pastoral Committee and the Revd Lorraine Badger-Watts to the Colchester Area Mission and Pastoral Committee.
• Approved an appointment of the Ven Vanessa Herrick to the Cathedral Chapter.

Finance Committee
• Received an update on the Barking Area Churches Development Project and approved a proposal to apply to form a Community Benefit Society.
• Received an update on the financial position of Sparrows.
• Approved a change in the investment objective as recommended by the Investment Committee.
• Approved the appointment of the Revd Richard Wyber as the new Chair of the Investment Committee.
• Approved additions to the list of officers authorised to use the company seal.

Members are asked to NOTE the report.