

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 previous 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.

April 2017

Bishop's Council

- Received a report on Interim Ministry following the recent national conference (led by this diocese) and endorsed some next steps which include ensuring a clear 'contract' between parishes and ministers in Interim arrangements.
- Agreed to recommend adoption of the national safeguarding policy statement to Synod and noted the draft report from the diocesan safeguarding audit.
- Endorsed the DBE vision statement:
The mission of the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Education is to:
 - *Promote life in all its fullness through Education across Essex and East London.*
 - *Support transforming presence that offers life enhancing encounters with Jesus Christ.*
 - *Provide schools of Christian character for the common good.*
 - *Our priorities are to resource and equip schools, colleges and parishes to:*
 - *go more deeply,*
 - *range more widely*
 - *relate more closely*
- Agreed to a proposal for an internal audit in to data protection compliance.
- Approved nominations to the Pleshey Advisory Board.
- Approved an appointment to the Bradwell AMPC.
- Approved the draft agenda for the June 2017 Diocesan Synod.
- Noted the membership of the Bishop's Advisory Group for the appointment of the Archdeacon of Harlow.

DMPC

- Endorsed a proposal to begin consultation on the union of the benefice of Coggeshall with Markshall with the benefice of Cressing & Stisted with Bradwell juxta Coggeshall and Pattiswick.

- Approved the proposal to end the current lease of the closed All Saints church in Grays and to market the building.
- Approved the proposal to begin the statutory consultations on the closure of Holy Trinity in Abridge for regular public worship, following request from the PCC.

Finance Committee

- Approved the Annual Reports and Accounts, financial statements and the Letter of Representation and authorised the Chair of the CDBF to sign on behalf of the CDBF.
- Approved the draft 2018 Budget and plan for 2019 and 2020.
- Approved updates to authorised signatories on the bank mandate.
- Received an update on clergy houses and authorised expenses relating to clergy house improvements, replacements and purchases.
- Agreed to rescind a previous resolution in respect of the St Mark's Centre Beckton, and agreed the exploration of a new management arrangement working with the Area Dean.
- Authorised an extension of a parish loan facility for Loughton St Mary.

Members are asked to NOTE the report.

APPENDIX: ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE DIOCESAN MISSION & PASTORAL COMMITTEE

In 2016 the Diocesan and Area Mission & Pastoral Committees continued to oversee and support the development of 'Mission and Ministry Units'. At each Area meeting each Deanery provided updates on any changes, challenges and successes and shared in the mutual learning process. Guidelines for the formation of MMUs were considered and approved. A further seven MMUs were formally recognised by their respective Area sub committees. These were:

Bradwell:

South West Chelmsford Churches
North Chelmsford Mission and Ministry Partnership

Colchester:

Thurstable and Winstree with Kelvedon and Feering
Dunmow and Stansted Deanery

Barking:

All Saints Minster
Central and North Romford Partnership in Mission and Ministry (PiMM)
Newham Deanery

It considered the challenges and opportunities brought by the significant areas of new housing in the diocese and formed part of the consideration of the eventually successful application to the Church Commissioners' Mission Development Fund.

Recent legislative change gave the opportunity to make interim ministry appointments. The DMPC's consent to such appointments is required. Four interim ministry appointments were given consent by the DMPC during the year.

A number of pieces of Pastoral Reorganisation were in process during the year. A total of 3 Pastoral Schemes and Orders (legal documents drawn up under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011) were completed, including:

- A Pastoral Order transferring the parish of Boreham from Chelmsford South Deanery to Chelmsford North Deanery.
- A Pastoral Scheme creating the new benefice of Mayland and Latchingdon.
- A Pastoral Order amended the parish boundaries of the parish of Great Canfield, the parish High Roding, the parish of Aythorpe Roding, the parish of High Easter and the parish of Great Dunmow.

In relation to churches closed for worship the following actions were taken:

- Work towards a Non-Statutory Public Inquiry for St Peter's Church in Birch continued.
- After considering the offers submitted during the marketing process, the sale of St John the Divine, Romford began.
- Approval of an extension of the leasehold at All Saints Langdon Hills.

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:

- 13 suspensions for a further period,
- 11 new suspensions,
- 5 suspension lifted or allowed to lapse,
- 3 restrictions of presentation.

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/archive/diocesan-synod-and-committee-members>

Nathan Whitehead
Pastoral Secretary

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The 1st January 2016 saw a significant change to the Faculty system, brought about by the new Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015. The new rules introduced a national system for dealing with relatively minor cases which determined that some minor works could be undertaken without a formal permission whilst others could be authorised by an Archdeacon without referral to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). This new system, which is governed by what are called the A List and the B list, has reduced the number of cases referred to the DAC for consideration to 228 last year but 162 cases have been dealt with by the Archdeacons, usually in consultation with a member of the DAC or one of its consultants. There were also 238 general enquiries made to the DAC Secretariat and 71 of these led to a sub-committee of the DAC visiting a parish to give on-the-spot advice.

There is a growing awareness that our church buildings can and should be reinvigorated as local assets, as well as places of worship, reaching out to and serving the entire community. Many congregations are exploring how their buildings can offer welcoming, flexible and hospitable spaces to accommodate the needs of the parish they serve. An essential part of this process is understanding the significance of the existing building and what the impact of changes to it might have. In the light of this, the Committee continued to urge parishes to complete Statements of Significance for their churches, regardless of whether any major changes are proposed. These documents – and Statements of Need – form key components of applications for a Faculty and consultees are increasingly unwilling to engage in the consultation process until these have been produced. Having said this, the DAC continues to welcome early approaches from parishes who are considering making changes to their churches. It is our experience that an early visit from a DAC sub-committee can help parishes focus their needs and understand the significance of the building which they care for.

For many years now, the DAC has organised an annual tour to visit some churches where works have recently been completed. This enables the members of the committee to see at first hand a selection of schemes that it has considered and to see whether there are any lessons to be learned as a result of the changes that may have been made. In 2016, we were joined on the tour by a group of curates in training, which gave them a chance to experience for themselves how the Faculty system works in practice. The churches at Wivenhoe, Alresford, Thorrington and Brightlingsea were visited and the feedback from those who attended was universally positive. The DAC therefore looks forward to being joined by trainee curates again on this year's annual tour.

During 2016, the DAC welcomed four new members: Evelyne Bell is an art historian with a particular interest in paintings; Susan McCarthy is a working stained glass artist and restorer; the Reverend Colin Baldwin is a parish priest in Southend on Sea who was a practicing architect before joining the ministry; and, Jim Laws is a retired lecturer in lighting and lighting design with extensive experience in stage as well as

church lighting. The Committee continually reviews its membership and its supporting consultant team to ensure that it has access to sufficient skills and expertise to give effective advice to parishes and to the Chancellor as part of the Faculty application process.

At the year end, the Committee still awaited a decision on the proposed On-Line Faculty System. This will doubtless lead to some changes in the workings of the committee as well as to the parishes that will use it to apply for the necessary permissions.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE HOUSES COMMITTEE

The Houses Committee continues to oversee around 420 parsonage houses. In 2016, the Committee oversaw expenditure of £1.988 million on repairs and improvements to the estate. This included 96 periodic inspections, vacancy works at 28 properties, 16 bathroom replacements and 14 kitchen replacements. Extensive refurbishment was undertaken at two properties. A new vicarage was completed at Brightlingsea, a new benefice house purchased for Holland on Sea, and a further Associate Minister's house was purchased. Three sales were completed. Nine houses were purchased for new stipendiary curates using mortgage financing, which continues to offer significant savings against the costs of rentals. Energy efficiency improvements were completed at over 40 properties.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE

The Investments Committee oversees diocesan investments including managed funds and the glebe land portfolio. The income from investments goes to support the work of the diocese, notably through the Stipends Fund which reduces the total costs of parish ministry.

The major work of the Committee during the year was the review of Investment Managers. This ultimately led to the decision to switch to CCLA and Cazenove. A full report on this was appended to the Bishop's Council report to the March 2017 Synod. The new arrangements have started well.

During the year the Committee oversaw a lease renewal on a retail property and disposal of a further commercial property in line with the policy to move away from direct holdings of commercial properties. Early work on a number of development opportunities was undertaken.

The performance of investments in the year is detailed in the annual report and accounts.