

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 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.

April 2018**Bishop's Council**

- Approved a draft Privacy Notice for clergy, licensed and authorised ministers and parish officers and post holders and noted a report on the on-going data protection compliance plan and training opportunities,
- Agreed that the breadth and depth of the national safeguarding policies and practice guidance are now sufficient as to render the diocesan policy superfluous, particularly given the new legal requirement to have due regard to national rather than diocesan materials. Accordingly, in its capacity as standing committee of the Diocesan Synod, the Council approved that, as soon as reasonably practicable, the 2014 diocesan Safeguarding Policy is withdrawn in favour of the suite of national safeguarding policy and practice guidance,
- Noted a report on the forthcoming Peer Review in which a team of nationally appointed peer reviewers will visit the diocese and explore various strategic themes and our self-assessment,
- Received a report on the involvement with Setting God's People Free – the discipleship limb of renewal and reform debated at last November's Synod,
- Received an update on the appointment of a new Archdeacon of Barking, in particular noting the members of the Advisory Panel and the timetable.

DMPC

- Approved an interim ministry appointment at Seven Kings St John,
- Approved a proposal for the union of the benefice of Chigwell and Chigwell Row and the benefice of Lambourne with Abridge & Stapleford Abbots and the creation of a new Team Ministry,
- Approved a proposal to suspend the right of presentation to the benefice of Brentwood St Thomas.

Finance Committee

- Considered the Annual Report and Accounts for 2017 and authorised the Chair of the CDBF to sign the Accounts and Letter of Representation,

- Approved key assumptions for the 2019 Budget and delegated authority to the Chair of the CDBF to agree the final budget for a member of the Bishop's Council to recommend to Synod,
- Received a report on the houses position and authorised authority for capital expenditure in a number of cases.
- Noted financial performance in Q1.

Synod is asked to NOTE this report.

APPENDIX: ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE DIOCESAN MISSION & PASTORAL COMMITTEE

In 2017 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 nine MMUs were formally recognised by their respective Area sub committees. These were:

Bradwell:

- Compass Churches

Colchester:

- Braintree Deanery
- Hinckford Deanery
- Colchester North MMU

Barking:

- The Six Villages
- North Barking and Dagenham
- Chingford, Ss Peter & Paul with All Saints; Leyton, Ss Catherine and Paul (Cornerstone); Walthamstow St Gabriel's and St Luke's, St Mary's.
- Far East Redbridge
- Central Dagenham

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

- A Pastoral Scheme creating the new benefice of The Hedinghams and Upper Colne.
- A Pastoral Scheme creating the new benefice of Bocking, Saint Mary and Panfield and the new benefice of Black Notley, Great Notley and Rayne.
- A Pastoral Scheme creating the new benefice and parish of Saint Patrick, Barking and the new benefice and parish of Christ Church, Thames View.
- A Pastoral Scheme transferring part of the churchyard of the church of St Andrew in North Weald to the PCC for disposal.
- A Pastoral Scheme creating the new benefice of the Tenpenny Villages.

- A Pastoral Scheme creating the new benefice and parish of Plaistow, Saint Philip, Saint James and Saint Mary, new benefice and parish of Plaistow, Saint Martin and the new benefice and parish of Canning Town, Saint Matthias.
- A Pastoral Scheme creating the new benefice of Thaxted, The Sampfords, Radwinter and Hempstead.
- A Pastoral Scheme creating the new benefice of Chipping Ongar with Shelley, Greensted juxta Ongar and Stanford Rivers and the new benefice of The Theydon Parishes.
- A Pastoral Order amended the parish boundaries of the parish of Holy Trinity Hermon Hill Wanstead and the parish of St Barnabas Woodford.
- A Pastoral Order amended the parish boundaries of the parish of Shenfield and the parish of Mountnessing.

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.
- The sale of St John the Divine, Romford was completed.
- The lease for All Saint in Grays was terminated and the process of marketing for a new use began. After considering the bids it was decided to begin the process of sale of this building to the Kingsway International Christian Centre for worship use.
- The formal process to close Holy Trinity in Abridge commenced.

In relation to the consultation on Bishop's Mission Orders (BMOs) the DMPC agreed the following actions:

- To revoke the BMO for the Deeper Network Church, following the decision to close this Church.
- To grant a BMO for Crossway Stratford.
- To begin the consultations on a BMO for a Church plant on the Beaulieu development in Chelmsford (now known as St Francis' Community Church).

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:

- 20 suspensions for a further period,
- 9 new suspensions,
- 5 suspension lifted or allowed to lapse,

In addition to this a revised process for the consultation on suspension of the right of presentation was considered and adopted.

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
Pastoral Secretary

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

During 2017, the new procedure for dealing with applications for lesser works – the A and B Lists – became firmly established. The total number of applications referred to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) was slightly higher than the previous year at 240 but those cases dealt with by the Archdeacons outside the Committee process was markedly lower at 132. General enquiries to the DAC were also slightly lower at 205 but notwithstanding this decrease, the number of visits made by members of the committee to give what is effectively pre-application advice was little changed at 73 in all.

Looking at all these cases, one particular area of work which seems to stand out is the rising number of requests from parishes for the total or partial removal of pews. With the increasing ambition of parishes to find a wider range of uses for their buildings other than regular worship, many are looking to make the spaces in their churches potentially more flexible by removing pews and bringing in other forms of seating, most often moveable chairs. Such proposals can promote strong reactions both from within the parish – and that may include non-churchgoers - and from organisations like the statutory amenity societies and Historic England. The DAC will always look at each case on its merits but key to a successful scheme is the parish having a well-considered Statement of Significance that identifies the contribution that the pews make to the history and character of the building and a robust Statement of Need which clearly justifies the extent of change that is sought. There are sources of advice and help in preparing these documents and the DAC will always do what it can to give guidance to parishes that are embarking upon a major scheme of reordering.

A number of successful reordering schemes featured in the 2017 Design Awards Scheme – 9 schemes out of a total of 15 entries – and the standard was extremely high with 11 of the entries receiving Highly Commended awards, the highest that can be given, and the remaining schemes being Commended, the next level of award. The scheme has been running since 1999 and the DAC looks forward to as healthy a crop of entries when the next awards scheme is next launched in 2019.

Members of the Committee always look forward to visiting parishes and each year the DAC undertakes a tour to look at churches that have featured in the Committee's decision making in recent years. Always based upon a single Archdeaconry, members visited three churches in the Barking Archdeaconry in 2017 and again were accompanied by curates in training to give them an insight into the work of the DAC. The churches visited were St Margaret's in Barking, St Mark in Marks Gate and Holy Cross in Hornchurch with the latter hoping to embark upon a major redevelopment of the site which has the full support of the DAC.

During 2017 the Committee welcomed Jacinta Fisher, Conservation Officer at the London Borough of Waltham Forest, as a member who was appointed to represent the interests of the local planning authorities in the Diocese. Sadly her appointment was only a brief one as shortly after joining the Committee she was appointed as a Church Buildings Officer at the Church Buildings Council and the resultant potential conflict of interest led to her stepping down to be replaced by Andrew Hargreaves, Conservation Officer at the London Borough of Newham. 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.

Malcolm Woods, DAC Chair