

**DIOCESAN SYNOD**

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

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Date: **6 JUNE 2015**

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There have been three business meetings of the Bishop's Council since the November 2014 Synod.

As well as these meetings there was a day meeting held on 17 January where the Bishop's Council consider the theme of the Church and Social Responsibility. An item about this area will come to a future Synod.

The annual report of the DMPC can be found in the appendix to this paper.

The main items from each of the business meetings were:

**2 December 2014****Bishop's Council**

- Discussed the Church of England proposals to appoint a Bishop with a Conservative Evangelical view on headship,
- Received a report on the progress of Transforming Presence,
- Discussed the appointment of a new Chair of the DAC,
- Approved an appointment to the Guy Harlings Trust,
- Considered the attendance statistics for 2013.

**DMPC**

- Approved proposals for pastoral reorganisation from the Area meetings,
- Approved the progression of the BMO for the Diocese of Chelmsford Deaf Church,
- Received a report on the Re-imagining Ministry Consultation days.

**Finance Committee**

- Approved the Asset Investment and Management Policy,
- Approved a parish loan to Basildon, St Martin,
- Approved the replacement of Meadgate Vicarage, subject to charity commission approval (which was subsequently received)
- Approved proposals to address resource issues in the finance function,
- Approved release of a second planned drawdown to support Sparrows,

- Approved several matters in relation to membership of the Sparrows and Chelmsford Diocesan Trading Company Boards,
- Approved the application of a legacy to support the redevelopment work at Pleshey,
- Approved the auditors' remuneration fee for 2014.

## **5 February 2015**

### **Bishop's Council**

- Approved the use of the residual MOF monies to support development of pilot Mission & Ministry Units,
- Received and update on the parish share review and approved the timetable,
- Discussed the results of a survey on bullying and harassment,
- Received a report on Time to Talk 2,
- Noted the timetables for the General Synod and Diocesan Synod elections.

**DMPC** – no meeting

### **Finance Committee**

- Approved the updated risk register,
- Approved the mortgage facility for the purchase of curates' houses,
- Approved a recommendation on the national stipends increase.

## **29 April 2015**

### **Bishop's Council**

- Discussed key issues coming from the national Reform and Renewal package,
- Discussed proposals to alter Ordination dates and for greater DDO resource to support increased vocations.
- Considered early feedback from the Time to Talk 2 conference.
- Approved a recommended consultation timetable from the Parish Share Review Group.
- Endorsed draft schemes for lay representation on a Deanery Synod for Immanuel Church Brentwood and the Deeper Network.

### **DMPC**

- Noted proposals for Wickford St Andrew.
- Agreed, in principle and subject to proper advice, the off market sale of Romford St John.

### **Finance Committee**

- Approved the Annual Report and Financial Statements,
- Received a report on the emerging budget for 2015,
- Received a report on the Energy Investments Project,
- Received a report on Sparrows.

Members are asked to NOTE the report.

## **APPENDIX: ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE DIOCESAN MISSION & PASTORAL COMMITTEE**

In 2014 the Diocesan and Area Mission & Pastoral Committees continued to work with deaneries on the development of mission and ministry units in response to *Re-Imagining Ministry*. Each Deanery has now presented their draft options units and updates on the latest developments are given at each Area Committee meeting.

A total of 5 Pastoral Schemes and Orders were completed during the year including:

- The dissolution of the Great Parndon Team Ministry and creation of the new parish and benefice of Staple Tye,
- A Pastoral Order to rearrange the parish boundaries and renaming benefice and parish names of Stratford, Saint John with Christ Church and Saint James; Forest Gate, Saint Saviour and Stratford, Saint Paul,
- The Creation of the Witham and Villages Team Ministry,
- The union of the benefices and parishes of The Ascension, Chelmsford and All Saints, Chelmsford.
- the transfer of the parish of Saint Edmund, Forest Gate in the benefice of Forest Gate, All Saints and St Edmund to the benefice of East Ham with Saint Alban, Upton Park and for the union of the parish of East Ham with Saint Alban, Upton Park and the parish of Saint Edmund, Forest Gate;

Bishop's Mission Orders for Immanuel Church Brentwood and the Diocese of Chelmsford Deaf Church, were granted giving a total of 4 BMOs in this Diocese.

In relation to churches closed for worship:

- St Mary the Virgin, Foulness and St Mary the Virgin, Blackmore End were both sold,
- The alternative use for All Saints, Sutton was approved and the process to sell this building began,
- St Paul, Parkeston was discovered to have never been consecrated. Therefore this building did not need to continue through the statutory process and can have its future settled locally,
- The demolition Scheme for St Peter, Birch was referred to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who decided that a Non-Statutory Public Inquiry should be held. We are still waiting for confirmation of when that will be.

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

- 24 suspensions for a further period,
- 19 new suspensions,
- 1 suspension lifted or allowed to lapse.

Full details can be found on the Diocesan website at:

<http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/policies/suspension>

A full list of the Committee and Area sub-committee memberships can be found at:

<http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/diocesan-synod-and-committee-members>