

DIOCESAN SYNOD

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

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Since the June meeting of the Synod the Bishop's Council have met twice. A summary of the decisions taken is as follows:

July 2016

Bishop's Council

- Discussed the outcome from the recent Peer Review of the diocese. This largely affirmed the diocesan position and *Transforming Presence*, and noted good work on vocations. Peer review team felt the decline in Church Commissioners' funding is a significant risk.
- Agreed future arrangements for the Mission Opportunity Fund: grant funding from Allchurches Trust (parent of EIG) will be used to enable MOF to continue in a more limited form, with priority to projects from Mission & Ministry Units
- Noted the successful first stage application for Strategic Development Funding to support church planting in new housing areas
- Discussed the challenges in relation to the development of new church schools

DMPC

- Endorsed two items of pastoral reorganisation
- Subject to reservations, endorsed the progress towards a BMO for the proposed church plant in Stratford
- Noted the guidelines on Mission & Ministry Unit formation which were then sent on to deanery officers.

Finance Committee

- Approved the annual return to the Charity Commission
- Approved investment in a replacement new telephone system
- Endorsed the bid for restructuring funding
- Reviewed the half year performance on parish share

October 2016

Bishop's Council

- Received an update on the application to the Strategic Development Fund and endorsed the second stage application to support Church planting in the Diocese.

- Agreed to recommend to Diocesan Synod a formula for use in the 2017 Deanery Synod elections.
- Approved the appointment of Julia Abel Smith, Revd Vernon Ross and Robin Stevens to the Cathedral Council.
- Noted a report from the National Simplification Task Group.

DMPC

- Approved an interim ministry appointment at Tye Green with Netteswell.

Finance Committee

- Received a report, with recommendations, on the CDBF's Investment Manager review and retender. The Committee approved the appointment of new Investment Managers and transfer of funds. (A more detailed note on this will be shared at the next Synod.)
- Approved the continuation of the mortgage strategy to meet the 2017 curate intake housing needs as a better value strategy than renting.
- Reconfirmed previous approval for a building acquisition and leaseback to support one of the BMO churches.
- Noted a paper outlining the short term and long term risks with the implementation of the new share scheme.

Members are asked to NOTE the report.