

THE BISHOP'S COUNCIL: STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ELY DIOCESAN SYNOD and  
DIOCESAN MISSION AND PASTORAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 18 November 2020  
Via video conference

Present: The Bishop of Ely (in the chair), the Bishop of Huntingdon, Mr Donald Ashmore, Revd Canon Brian Atling, Very Revd Mark Bonney, Revd Canon Mike Booker, Mr Francis Burkitt, Revd Canon Adrian Daffern, Revd Martin Dale, Mrs Sue Freestone, Ven Dr Alex Hughes, Canon Simon Kershaw, Mrs Elaine Levitt, Mrs Diana Lucas, Mr Martin Macfarlane, Mr Steve Mashford, Revd Canon Anna Matthews, Canon Peter Maxwell, Ven Hugh McCurdy, Revd Canon Nick Moir, Revd Canon Alison Myers, Mr Rob Needle, Revd Carol Nicholas-Letch, Dr Arvan Pritchard, Mrs Sarah Robinson, Revd Canon Simon Talbott, Canon Lizzie Taylor, Canon Tim Walters.

In attendance: Canon Paul Evans, Mrs Sheena Bridgman, Revd Dr Hannah Cleugh, Mr Adam Evans, Mr James Owen, Mr Andrew Read.

**Dwelling in the Word** was led by Canon Lizzie Taylor

**Apologies** were received from Mr George Lynn, Canon Janet Perrett and Mr Stephen Tooke

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September and 29 October 2020 were approved and signed. There were no matters arising.

Bishops Business: *Living in Love and Faith* has been launched and resources are published. Both the Bishop of Ely and Bishop of Huntingdon commend the publications. This 5-week course is designed for use through 2021 into 2022 and Parishes might consider using this course during Lent. Revd Canon Dr Jessica Martin will be preparing a livestreamed course from Cathedral. A Bishop's Study Day on this topic will be held on 3 March 2021 for all clergy. The *Pastoral Principles*, previously presented to Bishop's Council by Dr Eeva John, will be distributed with Synod papers as an introduction. *Living in Love and Faith* is to be discussed in greater detail at the March 2021 Synod.

Business of EDBF: In 2020 the highest total Ministry Share receipts was received In November. The Chair of the EDBF passed his sincere thanks to parishes.

Final versions of Budget Guide and Explanatory Notes together and Ministry Share documents have now been widely circulated with an invitation at short notice for comment. Figures have been amended on a regular basis to set a realistic budget for 2021, which has resulted in a delay in consultation.

An application has been made to the Central Church for a Sustainability Funding Grant to support Dioceses. The answer will be known after 10 December 2020.

Revd Canon Simon Talbott, formally thanked all in the Finance Department for their dedication through the difficult pandemic year.

Strategy Implementation Group (SIG): The role of the SIG is to oversee future planning and define more clearly the strategic elements of Ely2025.

Deanery Planning: the purpose is to achieve, by summer 2021, a long-term view for the Diocese, its future and its ministry via communication and consultation across all parish levels. It is expected that parishioners and PCCs will be widely consulted to ensure transparency and engagement. Deaneries will be encouraged to consider the full ecology of clergy (to include LLMs,

ALMs, SSMS etc) as well as stipendiary clergy. The process should encourage the lay and clergy members of parishes, benefices and teams to discuss and own each area's ambitions, plans and hopes. Materials and support documents will be prepared for distribution to all parishes to share with their congregations.

The Department of Mission and Ministry will provide the operational structure to support the needs of the Deanery Planning Process and the Deanery Task Groups.

Archdeacons' Report: The Buildings Oversight Board (BOB) has been formed to coordinate all matters relating to church buildings in the Diocese (to include the Diocesan Advisory Committee, Closed Churches Committee and ReachEly). BOB will report to the SIG and thence to Bishop's Council. The first meeting will be held in late November 2020.

**VOTE:** That Bishop's Council is confident in the Archdeacons' and Strategy Implementation Group's plans for Deanery Planning; that the members accept the timeline for action, which will be reviewed at Bishop's Council meetings and that the members will ensure ADMPCs will include embedded congregations in the consultation process.

Proposed: Revd Carol Nicholas-Letch  
Agreed unanimously

Seconded: Donald Ashmore

ReachEly (a Diocesan audit) is a key output from the Ely2025 Strategy document, which is required to be undertaken, processed and delivered by summer 2021. Paperwork will be distributed to all parishes, benefices and teams with the request for completion by several areas. The purpose is to complete, and for the Diocese to hold, a central complete database of Diocese-wide information about leadership, membership, buildings, QIs, succession planning and more.

**VOTE:** that Bishop's Council approves the commissioning of the ReachELY audit and that paperwork to be circulated for completion and analysis by mid-January.

Proposed: Hugh McCurdy  
Agreed unanimously

Seconded: Elaine Levitt

There was no report from either Archdeacon Ministry and Pastoral Committee.

Clergy Wellbeing Survey 2019: The results of the survey were presented by Revd Dr Sue Wyatt. The Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing was made an Act of Synod in February 2020 and is planned for inclusion in March 2021 Diocesan Synod proceedings.

The Diocesan response to the Clergy Covenant for Wellbeing Act of Synod 2020 may give an opportunity to address some of the recommendations, in particular those concerning working boundaries for clergy; bullying and harassment; and encouraging conversations about clergy care and wellbeing with local congregations. There is no clearly named Clergy HR Department within the Diocese of Ely.

Dr Wyatt formally noted her thanks to the representatives in the Clergy Wellbeing Forum.

Bishop's Council was advised that a one-year appointment, a parish-focussed Communications Development Officer, funded by the Strategic Development Fund bid income, is to be created to assist Market Towns destinations in technological areas and subjects, as well as assisting in helping improve broadcasting content.

Meeting closed with prayer at 8.48pm