

THE BISHOP'S COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 23 January 2020
at Bishop Woodford House, Ely

Present: The Bishop of Huntingdon (in the chair), Mr Donald Ashmore, Very Revd Mark Bonney, Revd Canon Mike Booker, Revd Martin Dale, Canon Simon Kershaw, Mrs Elaine Levitt, Mrs Diana Lucas, Mr Martin Macfarlane, Revd Ven Hugh McCurdy, Revd Canon Nick Moir, Revd Canon Alison Myers, Mr Rob Needle, Revd Carol Nicholas-Letch, Mrs Sarah Robinson, Revd Simon Talbott, Revd Jason Taylor, Ms Lizzie Taylor.

In attendance: Canon Paul Evans, Mrs Sheena Bridgman, Revd Canon Linda Church, Mrs Natasha Clark, Revd Dr Hannah Cleugh, Revd Dr Megan Daffern, Mr Adam Evans, Mrs Debbie Hill, Revd Phil Marsh, Mr James Owen, Miss Lauren Randall, Mr Andrew Read, Revd Mark Rodel

Dwelling in the Word was led by the Revd Dr Hannah Cleugh

Apologies were received from the Bishop of Ely, Revd Canon Brian Atling, Mr Francis Burkitt, Revd Canon Adrian Daffern, Mrs Sue Freestone, Ven Dr Alex Hughes, Mr George Lynn, Mr Steve Mashford, Canon Peter Maxwell, Canon Janet Perrett, Dr Arvan Pritchard, Mr Stephen Tooke, Canon Tim Walters.

The **Minutes** of the Bishop's Council meeting on 23 September 2019 were agreed and signed

Matters Arising: Paul Evans advised that the position regarding replenishing the Growth Fund would be reviewed after the year-end audit had been concluded. A larger than usual number of clergy moves (23) had taken place during 2019 (usually 12) which has impacted significantly on anticipated year end position. The audit began in mid-January and is expected to be concluded towards mid-March.

Diocesan Synod Business: The Revd Canon Alison Myers, Chair of the House of Clergy, is instituting some new initiatives for governance, forward planning and the preparation of a 2-year rolling programme for Synod and Bishop's Council (reflecting the National Church agenda). These initiatives will ensure that actions are clear, monitored by the Chairs and reported back to Synod. A post-meeting information note will be prepared to improve communication and, following circulation, Deanery Synods are use the note to facilitate discussion. Canon Simon Kershaw, Chair of the House of Laity, is preparing a paper.

Bishop's Business: Bishop Dagmar advised that Bishop Stephen plans to return to work after Easter and thanks all for their supportive wishes. A recent BBC2 television programme about safeguarding mistakes and abuse of power highlighted the importance for all to be mindful of issues raised and to take them seriously. The Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboards for parishes has been implemented and is already improving support; Bishop Dagmar commended these and warmly supported the Diocesan Safeguarding Team's work.

Development Action Plans need renewed focus and Bishop Dagmar is preparing a simplified version which should be more user-friendly and a better tool for support. She is also focussing on Rural Ministry and more information will be brought to Bishop's Council towards the end of 2020.

Changing Market Towns - presentation by Revd Canon Mike Booker (MB) and Adam Evans (AE), Programme Manager (slides have been circulated). MB advised that Ely's programme, supported by Strategic Development Funding, is being held up as an exemplar by David Airey (Church House coordinator). The second bid for Strategic Development Funding was, as expected, unsuccessful,

due to the change in bid criteria. The Diocese's commitment to Market Towns remains unchanged and no changes are planned in connection with SDF#1 plans or operations. The direction for future plans are necessarily being amended. A draft proposal paper was circulated, with the preliminary budget to be submitted to Finance Committee in March. The focus will be on Huntingdon and St Neots, with the appointment of 2 Market Town workers and a new Operations Manager (four years' employment). Attention will then centre on Whittlesey, followed by Soham and St Ives in due course.

Bishop's Council noted the very positive growth results already evident from Phase 1 and the quality of delivery, with disappointment regarding the outcome for Phase 2 funding. [Relevant members of Bishop's Council will report this to both General Synod and the Church Commissioners.]

Peer Review: due to Bishop Stephen's absence, the planned second Peer Review has been postponed until 20 May 2020. This will be a frank review of the Ely2025 progress, strengths and weaknesses since the previous Peer Review in October 2017. The Diocesan Secretary invited comments in writing for the Bishop's Senior Staff to consider.

The Diocesan self-assessment and Peer Review results will, in due course, be posted on the Diocesan website.

Presentation by Ministry and Mission (Development)

The presentation focussed on the current wide ranging and large number of workstreams breaking the strategy down by Lever. The Ely2025 Programme Board will shape the work that needs to be done and before re-presenting to Bishop's Council later in 2020.

The Ministry and Missions team will prepare a set of measures for the 5 priorities, reassessing the workstreams taking a view across the Diocese, to offer what the parishes need, want and request; to invest and support and challenge

Next update at May Residential meeting of Bishop's Council

Revd Canon Linda Church (LC) presented the new Baptism toolkit booklet. As Revd Olivia Coles has now moved on from the Baptism Co-ordinator post, LC sought the approval of Council to replace this 0.5 vacant role with a Development Officer for Growing Faith. The vote to adopt this role was agreed unanimously, with emphasis being made that any future appointment be made in alignment with strategic allocation of funds.

Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee: the Archdeacon of Huntingdon & Wisbech requested that Bishop's Council note the attachment of the Yaxley and Wisbech Lynn Marshland Deanery Plans.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.59pm

Dates of next meetings:

2020: 15-16 May (Residential), 8 July, 24 September, 18 November