

Committee Meeting
19:30 Wednesday, 17 May 2017

Venue: Congo, Church House, Daresbury

In attendance: Mike Gilbertson, Christopher Burkett, George Crowder, David Felix, Vivien Gisby, Elaine Graham, Gary O'Neill, Liz Shercliff, Lesley Young, Jane Hood

1. **Prayer** led by Julie Withers.
2. **Apologies** David Blackmore, Joe Kennedy.
3. **Notes of meeting held 12 January 2017.** These were agreed as a true record of the meeting
4. **Matters Arising**
 - a. Bishop Peter will be attending the lay conference.
 - b. Vivien Gisby has been appointed Warden of Readers wef 1 July 2017.
5. **Setting God's People Free** Report to Synod in February encouraging lay and ordained to work together and think about ministry Monday to Saturday, not just Sunday. Chester is applying to be a pilot diocese. Mike Gilbertson and Bishop Peter will confirm whether application has been successful at the end of this month. There will be two cohorts of dioceses with the first cohort meeting in January 2018. Mike Gilbertson and Christopher Burkett will be part of the team.

The aim of SGPF is to enable lay people to be more intentional in discipleship and equipping everybody.

For discussion at future meetings: "a wider culture change".

6. **Synod Response** In a number of responses CfM has been confused with setting God's People Free. Don't normally receive such thorough feedback. There was an under-estimation of local church training. There is a perception in the diocese that Foundations for Ministry has changed and become more demanding, which is not the case. There is perhaps a need for a pre-FfM course, eg the Bishop's Course or similar. The Pilgrim course is used widely across the diocese (CfM issued a copy to each parish).

7. **RME Update – funding, learning, workload** All information from previous discussions is now being implemented. There is a formation plan for each candidate to replace the learning plan. The DDO is currently seeing 29 people due to a growth in vocations. Twelve students on ASCCM; nine at St Mellitus and one residential.

Apprenticeships: trying to find a way of funding a first degree for curates. More information to follow.

8. **MDR update** Gary O’Neill leading the process which has been rolled out to ±165 clergy. Over 60% have responded. Positive comments have been received from Rural Deans. The next stage is for the ±70 clergy on freehold to be invited to participate. The information on the website is now up to date.

9. **Lay Ministry**

i) Admission and Licensing Services from 2018

With effect from September 2018 Pastoral Workers and Readers will be licensed at the same service.

ii) Exploring how to make the FdA available to Pastoral Workers. With external examiner’s approval some PW modules have been amended slightly. The FdA is not part of Common Awards. Ordinands and Readers will continue to be taught together at Daresbury as variation in curriculum allows.

Durham University is now prepared to offer the equivalent of the Church Universities’ Certificate (60 HE credits at level 4). For in excess of ten years the Diocese of Chester has used HE qualifications for Readers.

10. **Internships** The Light Project is in a partnership with the University of Chester and offers evangelism internships for young people; giving them the opportunity to work towards an FdA whilst being a practitioner. The internships are funded by student loans. There is now the possibility of recruiting a cohort of diocesan youngsters for such internships.

11. **YBible – the brand** Some churches are now setting up projects based on the YBible theme and using the logo to promote these. Some are featured on the YBible page on the diocesan website. During the archdeacons’ visitations the opportunity has been given for parishes to talk for a few minutes on what they are doing for YBible.

To continue the YBible theme, books from Biblica in Belfast will be in the delegate packs at the lay conference.

12. **CfM membership** There is a number of vacancies on the committee. Suggestions for candidates to fill the vacancies to be discussed at September meeting.

13. **Any other business accepted by the chairman.** There was no other business.

Date and time of next meetings

- Thursday, 29 June 2017 19:00 Social evening. Details to be advised
- Thursday, 21 September 2017 19:30 Congo, Church House
- Wednesday, 29 November 2017 09:30 Annual Conference, Gladstone's Library,
Hawarden