



6. Board of Directors, Bishop's Council and Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee Report

14 May 2024

1. The Bishop's Council, Board of Directors and Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee met in person on 14 May 2024.

TC.T

2. Council have continued to monitor progress with Transforming Church Together (TC.T) and were briefed on progress to date, notably;

- the continuing parish engagement activities, including Deanery meetings with our Archdeacons
- Confirmation from the National Church that we can rephase some of our TC.T expenditure, and begin to invest in the PCN earlier than initially Planned.
- An encouraging Deanery update from Sally Roberston, particularly with regard to collaboration.

Education

3. The Director of Education briefed Council on progress with the schools affected by the DBAT changes, and the DBAT 'Lessons Learned' investigation which is now underway.

Safeguarding

4. Adam Bond briefed Council on the Annual Safeguarding report and the recent independent Safeguarding Audit. Whilst there are a number of recommendations we will need to consider or take action on, the audit team stated our practices, relationship with parishes, and processes are amongst the best they have seen. Adam was challenged as to whether or not we are *actually* a safe space for children and vulnerable adults, and he confirmed that - as far as it is possible - this is the case.

Clergy/Laity

5. Bruce Fynamore and +Neil briefed on the current situation with our ministers (lay and ordained), noting there have been some very positive and encouraging appointments recently.

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Synod Elections

6. Bishop's Council met soon after the close of Diocesan Synod nominations (noon on 13 May 2024) and noted the disappointing low number of applications, despite a significant communications effort. Work was set in train to address the implications of this shortfall.

DBF

Financial and Audit

7. Richard Bacon briefed Council on the current financial situation and the ongoing audit. Parish Share continues to be a cause for concern, but otherwise we are where we expect to be financially. The audit has again been challenging this year, but the new FD (Stephen Sheridan) is actively on the case and anticipating meeting the synodical and legal deadlines for audit completion and reporting of our accounts.

Mission and Pastoral Committee work

Overview

2. In addition to noting several matters that are currently in progress, the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC) made recommendations about the Swindon Villages, and the extension of Shine Pinehurst BMO, both of which were approved.