



## Board of Directors, Bishop's Council and Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee report

### 31 March 2022 and 12 May 2022

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The Bishop's Council, Board of Directors and Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee met via Zoom on the 31 March 2022 and in person on the 12 May 2022. At this point in the year, it would be usual for the Council to have met twice, but it has already met four times in 2022. This demonstrates the Council's level of engagement and involvement with the strategy development work of *Transforming Church Together*.

#### **Transforming Church Together (TCT)**

At its March meeting, the Bishop's Council spent time considering the feedback on the emerging strategy, received at the last meeting of the Diocesan Synod. It also heard an update on the continuing process to form the Diocese's bid to the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) of the Church of England which will enable the delivery of the eventual strategy.

In May, it heard about the three main strands of activity underway at that point:

- Communicating what is going on with the development of the emerging strategy;
- The bid process for the SIB funding for elements of the new strategy;
- The ongoing iteration of the strategy itself, including incorporating feedback received from Diocesan Synod.

The Council discussed some of the details in the draft strategy and how the strands support the Diocese's vision, purpose and values. They agreed on the importance of a good communication plan for disseminating information and increasing engagement from those on the ground in the wider Diocese. The Council members emphasised the importance of the Diocesan strategy landing well and that there should be a clear understanding about what it is calling people to, how they will be resourced and the direction in which it is heading.

#### **DBF Finances**

In May, the Board of Directors reviewed and approved the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. The Board of Directors also recommended the Annual Report and Financial Statements to the members of the DBF and they will be presented at the AGM that immediately precedes the next meeting of Diocesan Synod in June.

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**Matthew Hall, Deputy Diocesan Secretary**

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### **Audit and Risk**

The Board of Directors received the Audit and Risk Committee report at its May meeting. The first meeting included a report from Mazars LLP (the DBF's auditors) on the findings of the audit of the DBF's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2021. The auditors had given an unqualified opinion with no modification and were very positive in their audit completion report about the audit findings and the overall progress of their audit work.

### **Cathedral Council Appointments**

In May, the Council recommended three new appointments to the Cathedral Council of Bristol Cathedral.

### **Mission and Pastoral Committee work**

In addition to noting a number of matters that are currently in progress, the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC) made recommendations about one pastoral reorganisation, the lifting of the suspension of presentation in seven benefices and the introduction of the suspension of presentation in one benefice.

### **Diocesan Synod**

As Standing Committee to the Diocesan Synod, the Bishop's Council reviewed the agenda for the forthcoming meeting of Diocesan Synod. The Council approved the June agenda in detail and acknowledged that an additional, evening, meeting of the Diocesan Synod will be needed in early September.

Matthew Hall, Deputy Diocesan Secretary  
May 2022.