



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

9 May 2023

1. The Bishop's Council, Board of Directors and Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee met in person on 9 May 2023 for an extended meeting.

Mission and Pastoral Committee work

2. In addition to noting several matters that are currently in progress, the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC) made recommendations about five suspensions and one Pastoral Order.

Bishop's Council

3. The Council was delighted to be informed that the Transforming Church. Together (TC.T) bid had been successful, and wished to record their thanks to all those who had worked so tirelessly to achieve it. They then focused on how Council could support the implementation plan.

4. Council then received updates on Reverse Mentors and the nascent Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework. The Council also discussed how to communicate effectively with our leaders and parishes about the new parish-based and parish-facing staff that will be recruited, and the ways in which the additional resources could be accessed. The aim is to make it as easy as possible. It was noted how important it was that parishes remain generous with their giving, as the additional funding is for additional activity, not to replace parish share.

5. The Archdeacons ran interactive sessions with Council members on TC.T which drew out Council members personal passions within TC.T and started them considering which areas of expertise they had personally to help move TCT forward. Similar interactive sessions will be run by the Archdeacons at Diocesan Synod on 10 June 2023.

DBF

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6. The DBF have reviewed and approved several property sales and acquisitions in the period, notably the exchange of churches between Bishopston and St Andrews at 160 Gloucester Road, and the Baptists at 279a Gloucester Road. In addition, they have overseen the audit of the 2022 Annual Report and Accounts, a process which has been highly challenging as a result of staff illness in the DSS. Despite inflationary pressures, additional force-majeur recruiting and staffing costs, and additional spend on housing compliance, the Diocese has achieved an operating deficit of £671k, which is £10k under the planned deficit of £681k.

7. The DBF have also been engaged in developing Total Return Accounting, which will the Diocese to utilise growth in our investment capital for operational expenditure in the years ahead. Notably for the next 2 to 3 years, this additional income will be utilised to help the Diocese achieve Net Zero by 2030, as approved by Synod earlier in the year.

8. The DBF has also been engaged with work on the Diocesan Scorecard and Risk Register, both of which will inform the work of the board as they plan and guide the use of our resources over the next 5 years. A summary of the methodology, and the key risks, will be presented at Diocesan Synod on 10 June 2023.